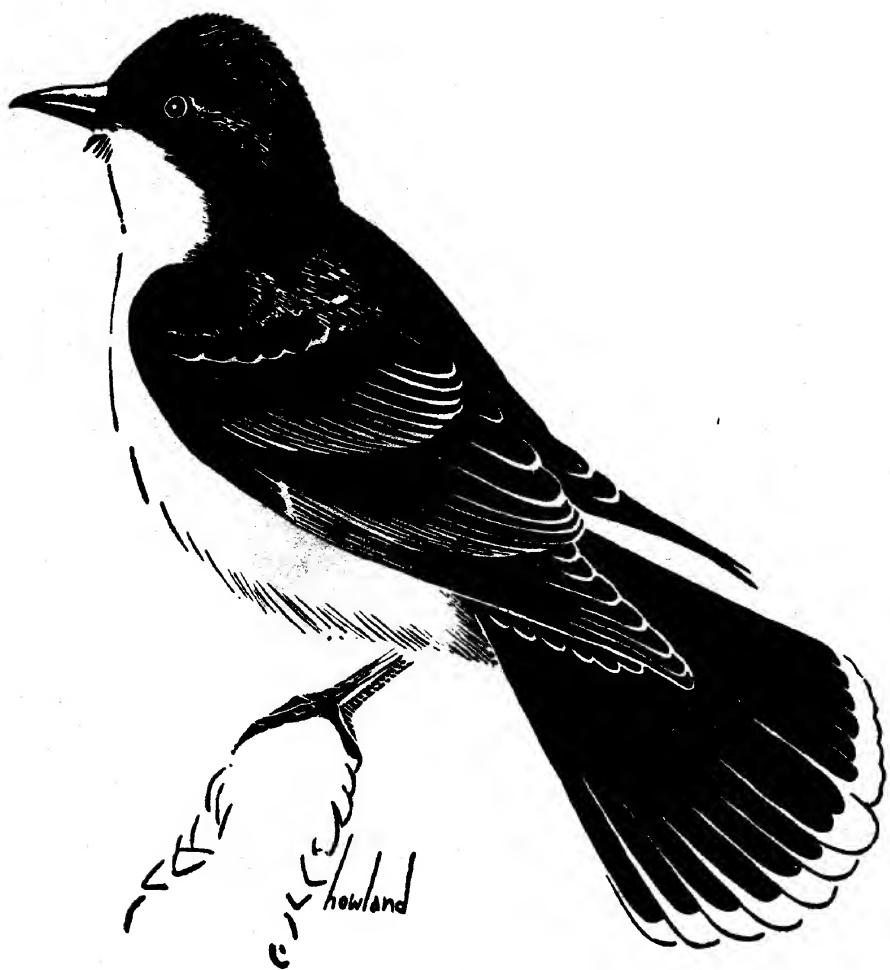


The **KINGBIRD**



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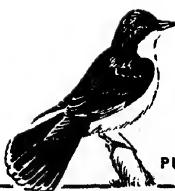
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The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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Winter, 1978

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

We are planning an article on the status of the Great Blue Heron in upstate New York (Regions 1-9), based upon data collected during the breeding season 1978. We hope to provide an update of the status of the Great Blue Heron as a breeder since Benning's last article on the subject (*Survey of Great Blue Heronries, 1964-1968 Kingbird* 19: 85-90). In addition, we want to include any colonies of Black-crowned Night Herons known within the upstate area. Would observers kindly send data on colony location, including colony name, county, town, colony size (active nests), and reproductive success (numbers of young in nests), to us at the address listed below, by September, 1978. Thanks for your assistance.

*George R. Maxwell II and Gerald A. Smith
Rice Creek Biological Field Station, S.U.N.Y. Oswego, N.Y. 13126*

CORRIGENDUM

Refer to Vol. 27, No. 4, pg. 206, "Long-tailed Jaeger at Derby Hill, Oswego County." The observer with author Gerald A. Smith is listed as Eric M. "Freeman." The correct name is Eric M. Freeborn.

ANHINGA IN NASSAU COUNTY

THOMAS H. DAVIS and ANTHONY J. LAURO

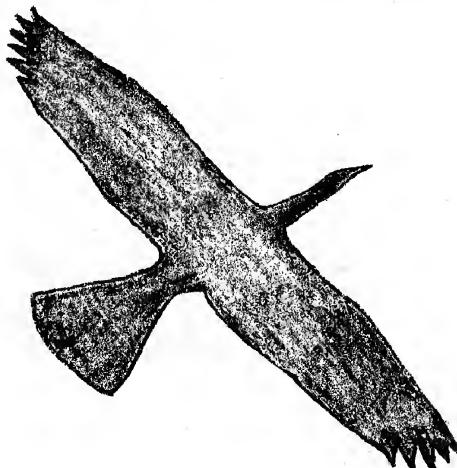
On 23 July 1977 the authors observed an Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) at Middle Line Island, situated at the western end of South Oyster Bay, about one mile south of Seaford, Nassau County.

The bird was observed for two or three minutes soaring in thermal updrafts, drifting to the southwest and then out of sight. Lauro viewed the bird with 7 x 50 binoculars, and Davis with 9 x 35 binoculars and briefly with a 20 x 60 spotting scope. Riding the thermals near the Anhinga were several Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*). Based on his familiarity with Herring Gulls soaring over New York City skyscrapers, Davis judged these birds' altitude to be 800-1000 feet.

The Anhinga exceeded the gulls in size, especially in overall length and in the breadth of its wings. It appeared wholly black below, slightly paler toward the base of the flight feathers. If the tail had any light tipping, this was not evident against a bright overcast sky. The wings were held straight out, primaries fanned apart at the tip. The head and neck projected straight forward from the body, not quite as long as the tail extended behind. The most remarkable feature about the bird was the tail, which extended behind nearly as far as the wings projected out from the body, and which was slightly fanned.

Although Anhingas are known as "snakebirds" because of their long, sinuous necks, this character is not apparent during soaring flight, when they are more appropriately dubbed "water turkeys" for their long fan-shaped tails. Davis' illustration of a soaring Anhinga, adapted from a slide transparency obtained elsewhere, depicts the species much as we viewed it over Middle Line Island.

A third birder, who wishes to remain anonymous, was present with us at the time of this sighting. Immediately following the observa-



tion, this person complained of the poor view, said that he experienced difficulty holding his binoculars steady on the bird directly overhead and that the bird was simply a silhouette lacking color. In a subsequent letter to Davis he commented, "my pros are 1) the tail shape and character, 2) the soaring behavior, 3) the wing pattern and style of holding same — my contras are 1) the neck and head were not long enough or 2) thin enough as I remember the Anhinga in Texas. It might have been an Anhinga—or a Cormorant—I'm just not sure." A statement in a later letter to Lauro is contradictory—"the character of the tail was good but that is not diagnostic as I'm sure you are aware." We are not aware of how or when the Anhinga's distinctive tail is not a good field character according to all reference works consulted, or from Davis' experience in separating Anhingas from cormorants in the American tropics. We repeat, that while the long, thin head and neck of swimming, sitting, or flying Anhingas is a prominent feature, this is retracted in soaring flight, when the bird's foreparts pale in significance to the distinctive tail. We would rather have deleted mention of this person's participation in this sighting but correspondence and conversation generated by this person did not permit this maneuver. The editors of *The Kingbird* especially felt that this person's presence and doubt about the identification could not be neglected.

Palmer (1962, *Handbook of North American Birds*, vol. 1, p. 361) states that Anhingas breed north to central North Carolina along the Atlantic coast, while a Mississippi River valley population breeds as far north as southern Missouri. Stragglers have been noted as far north as southern New Jersey, southern Ohio, and southern Ontario. The Anhinga's habit of soaring suggests how individuals may occasionally be displaced. The Middle Line Island sighting followed nine consecutive days of southwesterly winds and daily maximum temperatures above 90° F. The winds on 23 July were from the northwest at about 10 mph. The fact that Anhingas soar to great heights further suggests how easy it would be to overlook a passing bird. This report of an Anhinga at Middle Line Island constitutes the first record of this species in New York State, albeit a hypothetical record in the absence of a specimen, photograph, or agreement by three observers.

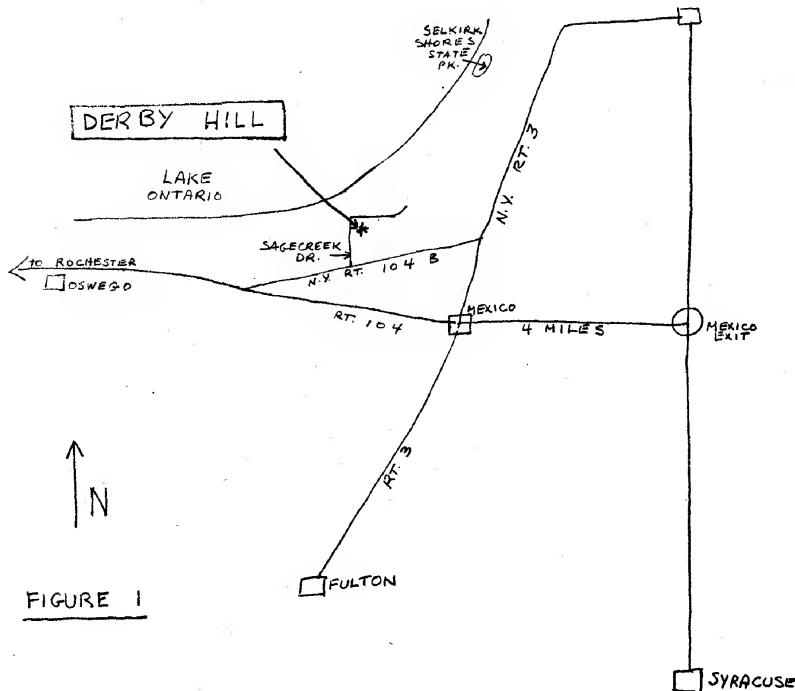
9446 85 Road, Woodhaven, NY 11421 and
9 DeSoto Road, Amityville, NY 11701

DERBY HILL SPRING HAWK MIGRATION UPDATE

GERALD A. SMITH and DAVID G. MUIR

INTRODUCTION

The Derby Hill migration lookout is located atop a lakeshore drumlin near the southeast corner of Lake Ontario in Mexico township, Oswego County, New York. The area is well known to regular readers of *The Kingbird* as a major migration observation point, most famous for the large hawk flights which occur there from mid-February through mid-June. The main purpose of this paper is to provide a brief overview of the history and other facets of the lookout and of the hawk flights which occur there. We also wish to provide an update on the hawk flight statistics since the appearance of the last compilation on the subject (Smith, 1973).



THE LOOKOUT: ITS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The ridge on which the lookout is located is an eroding drumlin which abuts Lake Ontario on the north, and is oriented approximately along a north-south axis. The main observation area is located in a field where the view to the west and south is fairly clear. It is at this point that most counts are taken, but as will be noted later, certain wind conditions may require a slight movement of the point of observation to the south. Figure 1 shows the routes for reaching Derby Hill from nearby areas.

The history of hawk migration observation at Derby Hill is relatively brief. Prior to the mid-1950's it was apparently completely unknown as a major hawk migration concentration point. Unlike many of the major hawk migration points in the northeast there appears to be no history of organized hawk shooting from this point. Thus it appears that unlike Hawk Mountain, Pa. (Broun 1949), Cape May, N.J. (Stone 1929) and Hawk Ridge, Duluth, Minn. (Hofslund 1966); Derby Hill lacks a bloody past. The nearest known hawk shooting occurred on the ridges west of Oswego, New York in the 1930's (C. Farnham pers. comm.) mainly involving Sharp-shinned Hawks. It is possible, however, that some small scale gunning may have occurred at Derby Hill.

From an ornithological standpoint, the hawk flights at Derby Hill were discovered by F. G. Scheider of North Syracuse, N.Y. during the mid-1950's. From then through 1962 the majority of observations were of a sporadic nature conducted on weekends and whenever observers could manage other free time. Even these relatively infrequent observations clearly hinted at the magnitude of the flights which occurred at Derby Hill. The results of these observations may be found summarized in the Region 5 reports for those years in *The Kingbird*, compiled by Dr. Scheider. These records are of great interest and are particularly enlightening from an historical standpoint. For example the previous more frequent occurrence of the Bald Eagle is clearly indicated by these records.

The first systematic studies were conducted by John R. Haugh from 1963 through 1965. During this period coverage during a majority of March and April was accomplished for the first time. Haugh, with the cooperation of several members of the Onondaga Audubon Society, including J. W. Propst, E. Estoff and C. and E. Farnham, organized daily observations from March through mid-May 1966. These observations were continued on a regular basis during 1967 and on a slightly less frequent basis during 1968. The results of Dr.

Haugh's studies, including the daily counts for 1963-1969, may be found in several papers on the subject including Haugh (1966, 1972) and Haugh and Cade (1966). Although we will touch very briefly upon some of the aspects of the spring hawk migration at Derby Hill, the reader is referred to Haugh's excellent papers. These papers presently provide the best available insight into this complex subject.

During the present decade, fairly regular observations have been conducted by the authors and other members of the Onondaga Audubon Society. The senior author first began observing hawks at Derby Hill in 1968 and the junior author in 1972. In addition to the regular observations conducted by the authors, a number of other observers, particularly Dorothy W. Crumb, F. G. Scheider, Janet Muir and C. and E. Farnham, have contributed regular observations. A number of other persons have also contributed records to a lesser degree. Without the efforts of all persons involved the spring hawk migration watch at Derby Hill would be much less complete than it has been. The efforts of all observers has usually generated between 40 and 55 days of coverage between late February and late May. Inasmuch as these efforts have been strictly on a volunteer basis, coverage has been fairly good.

When the hawk migration observations were first being conducted prior to 1965, Derby Hill was owned privately. At the time, approximately 50 acres comprising the main lookout and some nearby areas were purchased by The Nature Conservancy to protect it from potential unfavorable development.

During the next several years the initial outlay of funds was repaid to The Nature Conservancy through the generosity of several persons. The future of the lookout being assured, it was deeded by The Nature Conservancy to the Onondaga Audubon Society, Inc. of Syracuse, New York, for preservation and management. Since obtaining control over the property, the Society has made a number of additions to the original parcel. In order to preserve and enhance the quality of observation and increase the value of the area for ornithological studies, it has been realized that several additions were necessary. Using its own funds the Onondaga Audubon Society has purchased a section of the bluff overlooking Lake Ontario, and some small properties to the west of the lookout where construction would impede the view. Recently, in August 1977, the Society, aided by a loan from the National Audubon Society, purchased a small house adjacent to the sanctuary. This structure will serve as a headquarters field station and will be used as a research and public infor-

mation and education center. It is hoped that using this center as a core, a number of programs can be developed which will enhance and increase research being conducted there and benefit visitors to the sanctuary by informing them on all aspects of the sanctuary and the flights which occur there. In addition to funds required for the field station, there are a number of adjacent properties which the Onondaga Audubon Society must purchase in future years to maintain the observation quality and prevent encroachment of development upon the sanctuary. The loan must be repaid to National Audubon and funds will be needed to make necessary land additions. Since the Society's financial resources are extremely limited, any contributions from interested persons or groups would be greatly appreciated. Anyone wishing to help may send their tax-deductible contributions to the Onondaga Audubon Society, Derby Hill Fund, c/o Mr. Robert Strader, R.D. 1, Erieville, N.Y. 13061.

To date, the study of hawk migration and other ornithological studies conducted at Derby Hill have provided substantial insight into many facets of diurnal migration along Lake Ontario. A number of innovations will be added in the near future, which will increase the value of ongoing studies and lead to new ones. The planned establishment of an ornithological observatory at Derby Hill in the future will lead to further dissemination of data and increased research. The potential of the Derby Hill area for the study of migration is, in our opinion, equaled by few areas in North America. Although the other aspects of migration at Derby Hill are too numerous to deal with here, suffice it to say that there is much more to migration there than just the well known raptor flights. Large scale movements of many other species occur in both spring and fall. In particular, the large fall flights of waterfowl, jaegers, gulls and terns are of exceptional interest. It also appears that some fall raptor flights, hitherto unknown, may be a regular phenomenon at Derby Hill. All these aspects of migration in this area offer inviting opportunities for future study. Regardless of the season, there are usually things of interest to the birder to be found at Derby Hill.

HAWK COUNTS

This section contains the finalized spring daily hawk counts for 1976 and 1977 and summarizes for the year 1963-1977. These totals represent an updated compilation using all available data and should be considered the official final data for these years.

Table 1.

1976 DAILY HAWK COUNTS

Table 1 (continued)

1976 DAILY HAWK COUNTS

	Date	Turkey Vulture	Goshawk	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Cooper's Hawk	Red-tailed Hawk	Red-shouldered Hawk	Broad-winged Hawk	Rough-legged Hawk	Golden Eagle	Bald Eagle	Marsh Hawk	Osprey	Peregrine Falcon	Merlin	American Kestrel	Unidentified	Daily Total	
	April																		
3		1	1	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	
10		46	2	10	17	81	0	0	4	0	0	16	0	0	0	9	0	179	
13		18	1	0	1	10	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	36	36	
14		14	4	164	12	155	1	0	3	0	1	35	0	0	0	17	420	420	
15		0	0	269	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	17	310	310	
16		19	1	415	3	44	11	34	2	1	24	0	9	0	0	25	11*	598	
17		34	1	410	11	87	19	478	3	0	20	6	0	0	0	0	0	1093	
18		7	0	210	4	16	9	270	1	0	1	1	7	0	0	0	0	531	
19		0	0	69	2	3	0	25	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	102	
20		4	1	312	2	33	3	2048	2	0	5	0	9	0	0	2	0	2421	
22		0	1	164	1	27	1	3694	0	1	7	6	0	0	0	1	0	3903	
23		0	0	7	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	17	
29		0	0	11	1	10	0	106	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	135	
30		2	0	77	4	30	2	1289	1	0	12	13	0	0	0	2	4	1437	
	May																		
1		14	1	334	4	51	0	432	4	0	20	29	0	0	6	0	895	895	
2		8	0	214	1	34	0	1675	5	2	16	39	0	1	1	0	0	1997	
5		4	1	320	7	36	0	369	1	0	26	17	0	0	7	17	805	805	
14		4	0	20	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	32	32	
16		2	0	25	0	4	1	11	0	0	2	3	1	0	3	0	52	52	
	Days	42	233	83	3352	190	2812	470	10439	200	11	4	383	147	1	4	455	277	19061

*Includes one Swallow-tailed Kite.

Eagles: One adult Golden on April 17, all other eagles were immatures.

Table 2

1977 DAILY HAWK COUNTS

Table 2 (continued)

1977 DAILY HAWK COUNTS

Date	Turkey Vulture	Goshawk	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Cooper's Hawk	Red-tailed Hawk	Red-shouldered Hawk	Broad-winged Hawk	Rough-legged Hawk	Golden Eagle	Bald Eagle	Marsh Hawk	Osprey	Peregrine Falcon	Merlin	American Kestrel	Unidentified	Daily Total
April 1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2	6	0	0	0	0	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
3	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
4	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
5	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
7	6	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
9	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
10	43	0	0	0	39	7	87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	210
11	99	1	0	0	384	19	266	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	828
12	6	0	0	0	384	9	25	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	454
13	65	0	0	0	186	16	130	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	643
15	0	0	0	0	47	3	11	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	137
16	0	0	0	0	35	2	25	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	97
17	0	0	0	0	53	1	18	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	108
18	3	0	0	0	15	2	10	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	107
19	6	0	0	0	105	2	34	0	0	56	1	1	1	1	0	0	215
20	7	0	0	0	357	6	59	1	0	391	6	2	1	1	0	0	864
21	101	0	0	0	982	8	130	3	3	8105	44	10	1	1	1	0	9479
22	8	0	0	0	285	7	47	0	0	4035	12	0	0	0	0	0	4455
23	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
28	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
30	20	0	0	0	30	1	23	1	1	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	584

Table 2 (continued)

1977 DAILY HAWK COUNTS

Date	Turkey Vulture	Goshawk	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Cooper's Hawk	Red-tailed Hawk	Red-shouldered Hawk	Broad-winged Hawk	Rough-legged Hawk	Golden Eagle	Bald Eagle	Marsh Hawk	Osprey	Peregrine Falcon	Merlin	American Kestrel	Unidentified	Daily Total	
May																		
1	12	0	143	7	28	4	849	2	0	0	1	18	0	0	1	0	1065	
2	0	0	4	0	0	1	51	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	60	
3	0	0	4	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	
4	2	0	78	1	4	0	163	0	0	0	28	3	1	0	1	0	288	
5	0	0	38	0	10	0	119	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	171	
6	5	0	45	0	44	0	1231	1	0	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	1348	
12	2	0	7	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	17	
15	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
16	0	0	3	0	3	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	13	
17	8	0	22	2	22	0	126	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	183	
21	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
22	9	0	2	0	8	0	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	81	
June																		
2	4	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	9	
Days	61	683	40	3919	269	3701	935	16107	203	25	5	337	130	3	5	283	196	26841

*Includes Black Vulture

Table 3

1963-1977 DERBY HILL HAWK SUMMARY

14

<u>Species</u>	<u>Earliest Arrival</u>	<u>Latest Departure</u>	<u>High Year</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Low Year</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Day Maximum</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Average Number per Year</u>	<u>Total</u>
Turkey Vulture	9 Mar 77	14 Jun 72	77	683	63	30	4 Apr 74	197	169	3,049
Black Vulture	30 Mar 77	22 Apr 74		— 2 Singles Only —						2
Swallow-tailed Kite										1
Goshawk	15 Feb 76	6 Jun 73	73	398	77	40	29 Mar 73	88	116	1,656
Sharp-shinned Hawk										
Cooper's Hawk	27 Feb 77	20 Jun 70	66	5,138	63	1335	21 Apr 66	2,787	2,578	40,009
Red-tailed Hawk	25 Feb 76	21 May 74	77	269	65	70	3 Apr 71	55	161	2,520
Red-shouldered Hawk										
Broad-winged Hawk	15 Feb 76	20 Jun 71	73	4,080	65	789	4 Apr 74	1,184	2,192	34,386
Swainson's Hawk	28 Feb 75	18 May 71,75	67	977	75	304	31 Mar 67	420	552	8,664
Rough-legged Hawk										
Golden Eagle	29 Mar 67	26 Jun 75	63	21,542	72	6148	21 Apr 66	10,287	11,674	179,549
Bald Eagle	12 Feb 77	20 May 72	72	274	74	97	20 Mar 76	57	180	2,726
Marsh Hawk	24 Feb 76	13 May 72	77	25	63	2	21 Apr 77	10	9	142
Osprey	5 Mar 73	2 Jun 70	64,67,74	11	63,68,75	2	6 dates	4	7	98
Gyralcon	21 Feb 76	14 Jun 72	72	479	65	191	15 Apr 72	146	372	5,538
Peregrine Falcon	29 Mar 63,77	15 Jun 70	70	233	63	53	1 May 70	81	155	2,298
Merlin				— 1 Only 7 Apr 63 —						1
American Kestrel										
Total										286,944
Total all Hawks minus Broad-wings										107,390

THE HAWK FLIGHTS

A. Timing and Weather

Some hawks may be observed passing the lookout any time from mid-February through mid-June depending upon the weather conditions. Flights of 100 or more hawks in a day are generally restricted to the period 10 March to 20 May except under unusual conditions. An approximate overview of the timing and peak period for each raptor species is listed below.

Timing and Peak Period of Migrant Hawks

Species	Average Date Range	Usual Peak Period
Turkey Vulture	25 March to 20 May	1 to 25 April
Goshawk	20 February to 10 May	10 March to 10 April
Sharp-shinned Hawk	20 March to 25 May	5 to 25 April
Cooper's Hawk	5 March to 15 May	10 March to 5 April
Red-tailed Hawk	25 February to 1 June	10 March to 15 April
Red-shouldered Hawk	5 March to 10 May	15 March to 5 April
Broad-winged Hawk	12 April to 10 June	16 April to 3 May
Rough-legged Hawk	20 February to 15 May	20 March to 20 April
Golden Eagle	10 March to 5 May	25 March to 25 April
Bald Eagle	20 March to 15 May	10 April to 10 May
Marsh Hawk	25 February to 25 May	20 March to 15 April
Osprey	10 April to 10 June	25 April to 15 May
Peregrine Falcon	30 March to 10 May	15 April to 5 May
Merlin	20 March to 10 May	1 to 30 April
American Kestrel	5 March to 20 May	20 March to 15 April

The peak period for migration in terms of numbers is during the Broad-winged Hawk movement of the last two weeks of April. The peak period in terms of variety is usually the first three weeks of April. The best time to observe hawks and see them well is from 20 March to 15 April as the birds often pass at fairly low altitudes during that period. Later in April and May, the migrants may pass at great altitudes, riding well-developed thermals.

A complete description and analysis of weather conditions and their relation to hawk flights at Derby Hill may be found in Haugh (1966, 1972). We will only briefly outline the general conditions which produce the large hawk flights at Derby Hill.

The most important weather component required to concentrate a flight in the vicinity of Derby Hill is a 10 to 30 mph wind from any southerly quarter. Southwesterly winds usually generate the largest

flights, but southeasterly winds are often more desirable from the standpoint of observation as the hawks often pass closest to the lookout on southeast winds. Southerly winds are usually generated by the approach of a low pressure area from the west, and/or the retreat of a high pressure area to the east. Under such conditions good south winds are generated by the positions of these systems and the resultant pressure gradient between them. The approaching low is an essential ingredient in the proper weather pattern required to produce large flights. Without a low moving eastward, large flights rarely develop.

A particular circumstance of weather which often develops during the Broad-wing season of late April is somewhat confusing to many visitors to Derby Hill. Often, a strong high pressure area anchored off the east coast will impede the progress of frontal systems to the west, causing them to "stall out" and not move east for up to several days. Under such conditions, the air circulation to the west of the high pressure area will consist of south to southwest winds at 5 to 15 mph. At such times, many people rush to Derby Hill in expectation of a large flight. There are a couple of problems with this pattern, however. First, the lack of an advancing low and associated drop in barometric pressure apparently means fewer birds are stimulated to move than might otherwise. In addition, those that are moving are often dispersed inland from Lake Ontario by the "lake breeze" phenomenon. This is a bubble of cold air over the waters of Lake Ontario which often spills inland for a distance of several miles. It is due to the differential heating of the land and water which usually results in a 5 to 12 mph breeze from the water to the land. Under the high pressure pattern previously described, the strong southerly winds required to hold the cold air out over Lake Ontario are lacking. The resultant lake breeze conditions disperse the flight varying distances inland, depending on the strength of the wind, and relatively few birds are seen.

The ideal locations and pattern for weather systems to produce a large hawk flight at Derby Hill is roughly as follows. A low pressure area should be located over the upper Great Lakes somewhere between Lake Superior and Lake Huron. A warm front, extending eastward from the low and moving from south to north, should have passed or will pass soon to the north of Lake Ontario. A cold front, extending south from the low through the Midwest, should be moving eastward. Under such conditions, there is a wedge of warm air to the south of the warm front and east of the cold front. The air

in this wedge is characterized by strong southerly winds, warm temperatures and limited precipitation. Most of the large hawk flights which have been noted at Derby Hill in recent years have occurred in such wedges of warm air. If such conditions exist over upstate New York during any day from mid-March through early May, a superb flight is guaranteed.

While such conditions are ideal they are by no means required for a substantial flight. Under certain circumstances, large flights may occur prior to the passage of a warm front depending upon the amount of precipitation in that air mass. In addition, substantial flights may occur behind a cold front with west or northwest winds. Such flights occur most often when the air before the front was saturated, and during the Broad-winged Hawk migration. Since this species is more closely tied to a restricted migration period than most raptors, flights may occur more often under what appears to the observer to be unfavorable conditions. Under such conditions, the flights are often noted from .5 to 2.0 miles south of the lakeshore. Such flights are often so dispersed that organized flight lines are difficult to detect. The most favorable known lookout for observing such flights is located approximately .5 miles south of the lakeshore. It is likely that substantial numbers of hawks pass near Derby Hill under such conditions, but are so dispersed as to escape detection.

B. Comments on the Status and Trends of Hawks at Derby Hill

There have been a number of changes in the status and period of occurrence of some species at Derby Hill since the most recent papers on the subject (Haugh 1972, Smith 1973). These trends are in addition to normal yearly fluctuations and while some may be due in part to improving coverage, others are actual changes in status of occurrence. The overall summary of hawks for 1963-1977 may be found in Table 3. The present status and trends in each species follows.

Turkey Vulture

The increase in this species noted throughout the northeast has been very evident at Derby Hill. The yearly counts have risen from the 30 in 1963 to 683 in 1977. Most yearly totals during this decade have ranged between 220 and 310. The highest count prior to the 1977 explosion was 365 in 1974. Whether the extraordinary 1977 flight is a one-time occurrence, or another step in the continuing

increase of the species, remains to be seen. The overall increase in numbers has been accompanied by a trend toward a somewhat earlier arrival. Larger numbers are more frequent prior to the 10th of April than previously. In addition, Turkey Vultures are now regular breeders in areas near Derby Hill. The presence of these local birds now makes the determination of a departure date difficult, as small groups passing during late May and early June could be local breeders. There are few sights observed during the hawk flights that are as impressive as vulture squadrons of 10 to 30 birds, each floating past the lookout driven by gusty southerly winds.

Black Vulture

The local records of this southern vagrant occurred on 22 April 1974 and 30 March 1977. The weather patterns associated with these occurrences suggest that these birds probably originated from the Ohio Valley populations rather than from coastal populations. Since the species is appearing more frequently at hawk lookouts in the Northeast, it is possible that more Black Vultures will soon appear at Derby Hill.

Swallow-tailed Kite

One individual of this species appeared at Derby Hill on 19 April 1976. This sighting occurred during a period of warm weather due to a high pressure area anchored off the east coast of the United States which was similar to that described above.

Goshawk

The large invasion of Goshawks which occurred throughout much of eastern North America during the autumns of 1972 and 1973 was clearly reflected by the spring flights of 1973 and 1974 at Derby Hill. These massive flights of 398 and 200+ Goshawks are unprecedented in the brief history of our lookout. As would be expected following such large irruptions, the counts have decreased, greatly reflecting the expected population collapse of the species. The 40 birds recorded in 1977 are the lowest total since regular observations began in 1963. Recent observations have revealed that substantial numbers of Goshawks regularly pass the lookout during late February and early March. Some may be expected as soon as favorable weather patterns develop after mid-February. During years of poor flights, when adults constitute most of those seen, a large portion of the birds may pass before 15 March (see 1977 Derby Hill counts Table 3).

Sharp-shinned Hawk

The Sharp-shin totals usually range between 3,000 and 3,500 per year during recent years. In addition, it is likely that many pass undetected. Following the passage of a cold front when clear skies and westerly winds prevail, many Sharp-shins may migrate. Under such conditions the lookout is often unmanned. It is likely that daily coverage could substantially increase the yearly totals. Such coverage during April and May could result in at least 1,000 or more additional birds being seen. While there is no well-documented trend in the numbers of Sharp-shins passing Derby Hill, it appears on the basis of limited evidence that they may be increasing. The large flight of this species that occurred during the autumn of 1976 was not reflected in the spring 1977 count. It remains to be seen if the large north-eastern fall flight of 1977 (W. Fritton pers. comm.) will be reflected in the 1978 spring flight. A future increase in Derby Hill numbers would be expected if these large fall movements continue.

Cooper's Hawk

Despite the small yearly totals of this species, the numbers fluctuate considerably from year to year. No definite trend is obvious and it appears that the migrant populations are remaining fairly stable. The Sharp-shin to Cooper's ratio, based on 1963 through 1977 data, is about 16 to 1.

Red-Tailed Hawk

The counts of Red-tails fluctuate considerably depending upon the weather conditions of mid-March through mid-April in a particular year. Although it is difficult to be certain it appears Red-tails are slowly increasing. Most counts for recent years average 3,000 to 3,300 per year. Red-tails have the longest migration period of any hawk at Derby Hill and migrants may be seen passing any time from 20 February through 10 June. Of particular interest are the apparently adult birds which are often seen passing during May. At that time, breeding adults should be on territory throughout the species' range. It may be that these birds are part of a pool of non-breeding adults from which individuals may be drawn to replace breeding adults killed during the nesting cycle.

Red-shouldered Hawk

This species is the best Derby Hill example of the problems inherent in using short term counts of migrant hawks in assessing popula-

tion status. For example, Red-shoulders were more common during the early to mid-1960's than thereafter. Since the species has been steadily declining throughout its range, dire predictions were forthcoming when a record low of barely 300+ were seen during 1975. However, during 1977, just two years after many observers were writing the species off, 935 passed the lookout. Such fluctuations indicate the need for caution in drawing conclusions from limited data. Such data may only reinforce subconscious, preconceived ideas that all observers possess to some degree, based on previous field work. The reason for the low 1975 total is clear since the entire period of late March through mid-April was dominated by cold and strong westerly winds. Under such conditions, it appears that several species of hawks may simply slip through undetected due to the lack of favorable weather for concentrating them at Derby Hill. In turn, the high count of 1977 may be due in part to the relatively favorable weather patterns which occurred during the species' migration period. It is clear that any assessments that are made on the basis of short term data should be considered tentative in the light of potential meteorological and other variables. While such variables also affect conclusions drawn on the basis of long term data, there is more of a balancing-out effect over the long term. At this time, it is difficult to ascertain any definite trend in Red-shoulders although the large flight of 1977 may provide a reason to be guardedly optimistic.

Broad-winged Hawk

Like other hawk lookouts north of southern Texas, the counts of this species at Derby Hill vary greatly from year to year. During most of this decade the Broad-wing flights have been poor due primarily to the lack of intense frontal systems during the optimum period for Broad-wing movement. When such conditions are lacking during late April, these birds move over a wide front and many escape detection. The spectacular flights, when the sky is filled with Broad-wings, which draw many birders hopefully to Derby Hill, have been infrequent during the 1970's. One exception to this pattern occurred on 21 April 1977 when 8,000 were seen, followed by 4,500 on the 22nd. The great fluctuations in annual counts make detection of any population trends very difficult. In addition, it is apparent that large numbers of immature Broad-wings pass the lookout from mid-May through early June. Such flights were first detected during the early 1970's and have since been observed occasionally. However, observ-

ers are rarely present during this period. It is likely that regular coverage, particularly during the last three weeks of May, would substantially increase the counts of this species at Derby Hill.

Swainson's Hawk

The only definite record of this western vagrant is of a light phase adult which occurred on 22 April 1973. Swainson's Hawks should be looked for during the large Broad-winged Hawk flights of late April. It is quite conceivable that another Swainson's could take a "wrong turn" with a group of Broad-wings in Texas and wind up at Derby Hill.

Rough-legged Hawk

Rough-legs are synonymous with the name Derby Hill in the minds of many hawk watchers from more southern climes. More of these large arctic *Buteos* pass Derby Hill than at any other hawk lookout in the Northeast. The observer who hawk-watches on the Appalachian ridge or the mid-Atlantic coast may be somewhat impressed by several dozen Rough-legs in a single day at Derby Hill. For example, on 21 April 1977, 44 birds of this species passed the lookout during the course of that extraordinary day. One veteran down-state "hawker" present appeared slightly overwhelmed by the necessity of choosing between watching the 7 to 8 Rough-legs or the 3 Golden Eagles that were swirling amongst a boil of 500 Broad-winged Hawks. While such a "problem" was no doubt slightly frustrating, it was also undoubtedly enjoyable. During recent years, an average of 180 to 225 Rough-legs have been counted during most springs. A great majority of these birds are immatures, although a few adults of both phases occur, usually early in the season. As would be expected for an arctic breeder, numbers of Rough-legs vary considerably from year to year and determining trends is difficult.

Golden Eagle

There has been a great change in the status of this species as a migrant at Derby Hill since 1973. Prior to that time, 5 to 6 Golden Eagles in a season were considered to be a normal number. Since then, many more have been noted and with the exception of the north-wind year of 1975, 10 to 20 Goldens per year has become the normal number. The reasons for the dramatic shift are not known but there are a number of possibilities. The abrupt increase beginning in 1973 could indicate that a shift of flight line occurred during that year. If this shift involved mainly young birds, it is possible that

they and their offspring would continue to use this route on a long-term basis. It is also possible that a combination of factors, including good reproduction in 1972, was involved. Although the reasons for this increase are unclear, the benefits are not, as 1977 produced a record high 25 Golden Eagles for the season. A one-day record of 10 was also set for these magnificent birds on 21 April 1977. While the actual increase is great news, equally heartening is the fact that immatures and subadults constitute the great majority of the birds. During 1977, the immature to adult ratio was 5 to 1, consisting of 21 immatures and 4 adults. Whatever the status of this species in the Northeast, there apparently is a breeding population that is migrating past Derby Hill. For the time being at least, the news on the Golden Eagle at Derby Hill is good, and one hopes this trend will continue.

Bald Eagle

While the news on the Golden Eagle is good, the news on the Bald Eagle is terrible. The long-term decline of this species continues and there is no present reason for optimism. During the mid-to late 1960's the "normal" average total for a season was about 10 Bald Eagles. During the present decade, the yearly average is about 5. Prior to the mid-1960's this species was more common than the Golden Eagles at Derby Hill. From about 1965-66 through the early 1970's, the two species were approximately equal and since then the Golden has become the "common" eagle. This turnabout, while in part due to the increase in the Golden, is in larger part due to the decline of the Bald.

There appear to be two distinct groups of Bald Eagles passing Derby Hill. The first group probably consists of northern breeders returning to their breeding grounds and generally involves birds which are seen prior to 5-10 April. This group has become almost nonexistent at Derby Hill during recent years, and Bald Eagles are generally rare prior to 10 April. The second group consists of birds seen after mid-April and most probably involves Florida breeders moving north to summer. The great majority of the Bald Eagles seen at Derby Hill belong to this group. At present, the future of the Bald Eagle as a migrant at Derby Hill seems rather grim. It is a far cry from the late 1950's when 12 Bald Eagles could be seen in a single day and observers present were entertained in dull moments by the adult eagles from what was the last nest along the Lake Ontario shore. The idiocy which has dictated the environmental degradation of the last 30 years has left us all a great deal poorer.

Marsh Hawk

Annual counts of Marsh Hawks at Derby Hill usually range between 350 and 425 per year. While no firm trend is evident, they seem to be declining slowly. The first Marsh Hawks are usually noted passing the lookout during the last week of February.

The first migrants are invariably adult males, and males predominate prior to 15 March. From 15 March to early April, the flight consists of a mixture of grey and brown birds. After early April, females and immatures predominate, and adult males are infrequent after late April. There is at present no evidence that the populations which migrate past Derby Hill are suffering from a decline similar to that of breeding populations in upstate New York.

Osprey

The annual Osprey counts average 130 to 180 birds per season. It is interesting to note that these numbers are quite low when compared with the totals of many fall northeastern hawk lookouts. The over-winter mortality may account for some of these differences, but it does not account for most of the difference. Either Ospreys are disproportionately scarce along this flyway, compared to Hawk Mountain, Pa., for example, or we are missing a considerable number of these birds. It is likely we miss many Ospreys due to the timing of their migration. They are one of the latest migrant raptors and many probably pass the lookout during May when coverage is poor. It is likely that intensive May coverage could substantially increase the numbers of Ospreys seen. At present, there is no clearly discernible trend in the Osprey populations that pass Derby Hill. However, some limited evidence indicates that the species may be increasing as a migrant through our area.

Gyrfalcon

We have one record of this arctic vagrant at Derby Hill, consisting of a white phase individual seen by John R. Haugh on 12 April 1963.

Peregrine Falcon

The rarest regular raptor at Derby Hill is the Peregrine and an average total for a season is two. They most often occur here during the last two weeks of April. They are so rare that the senior author, who generally sees 15,000 to 18,000 hawks per year at Derby Hill, feels fortunate if a single Peregrine is included. There are three major factors that may be at least partially responsible for this scarcity. First, the species' populations in the eastern Arctic are in poor condition,

and since spring migrants through our area would come from these populations there may just be very few birds to pass. Second, these powerful flyers are less dependent on "favorable" winds than some other species and they may move regardless of the weather, thus passing the lookout on "poor" days when observers are absent. In addition, Peregrines regularly fly large distances over water, crossing the Gulf of Mexico and flying directly from Long Island to Virginia during fall migration. Thus they would probably not be deterred by a 40+ mile crossing of Lake Ontario, and many may fly directly north rather than paralleling the shore. While the first two possibilities probably contribute to the species' scarcity, it is likely that the direct lake crossing is the more important factor. Due to the limited number of birds seen no trends can be discerned.

Merlin

Like the Peregrine, this falcon is quite scarce at Derby Hill although numbers vary considerably. Most counts in recent years have averaged 5 to 10 per season. The scarcity of Merlins may also be due in part to the same factors that were discussed under the Peregrine. In addition, there is a problem of Merlin observation due to their uncanny ability to escape detection until almost past the lookout.

Rarely at Derby Hill does one hear, "Here comes a Merlin!", but usually the call is, "There goes a Merlin." The birder who wants to study falcons is advised to go to Cape May, New Jersey, or Long Island in the fall, and not to Derby Hill in spring. The limited numbers of this species at Derby Hill make detecting a trend difficult.

American Kestrel

The relatively small numbers of this species, an average of 300 to 500 per year, passing Derby Hill present somewhat of an enigma. When compared with the fall totals at Hawk Cliff, Ontario, the Derby Hill Kestrel flight is minuscule. Why, relatively, we see so few of what is one of the most common hawks in North America is puzzling. While it is possible that some pass over Lake Ontario, this appears rather unlikely.

Far more likely is that many pass on days of westerly winds when the lookout is not covered. Whatever the reason, American Kestrels are surprisingly uncommon at Derby Hill.

SUMMARY

While much has been learned about the timing, scope and mechanics of the hawk flight at Derby Hill during the last two decades,

much more work is needed. The primary need at the moment is increased and improved coverage so that the data taken will be of greater value in monitoring and assessing the status of these hawk populations. The planned creation of a data center and observatory at Derby Hill will hopefully contribute to the goal of increased coverage. It is hoped that additional research will be undertaken in the area. In addition to improving the studies being conducted, the Onondaga Audubon Society needs to obtain funds to make necessary additions to the study area. Such additions are needed to protect the area from possible disruption.

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David Muir is a native of the Buffalo area, who completed his education with a doctorate at Syracuse University, and at present is Asst. Prof. of Philosophy at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse. According to a veteran Derby Hill observer, he and his wife Janet make the "best husband-wife hawk watching team I have ever seen."

1977 FEDERATION SPRING MIGRATION SURVEY

CHERYL M. BOISE

Birders participating in the Federation's statewide 1977 spring migration survey recorded a total of 271 species plus two hybrids. The survey period was May 7-22. Most of the thirty surveys (two fewer than in 1976) were conducted on the weekend of May 14-15. One of the two pelagic trips was held on June 11 but is included in this report.

Over 600 birders participated in the statewide coverage. The observers from the Genesee Ornithological Society and Rochester Birding Association tallied the most species again this year—206 compared with 214 last year. For single day observation periods, the Buffalo Ornithological Society followed with 186 species, then Moriches Bay Audubon Society with 182, and Onondaga Audubon Society with 170. North Country Bird Club reported 199 species during the entire month of May.

Although adding species to the cumulative list becomes more difficult each year, four new ones were reported in this, the fourth year of the survey. These were Iceland Gull (two birds on a pelagic trip), Gray Partridge from the Watertown area, Long-billed Dowitcher on Long Island, and Lark Bunting—a male bird at Oneida which attracted birders from a wide area. A fifth new species, Swainson's Warbler, was reported from Columbia County but must be considered hypothetical due to the rarity of the species, the out-of-range locality, and the lack of sufficient details of the sighting by the two observers.

Many groups felt that passerines were low in numbers this year. Several groups' species totals were down slightly from 1976. As in 1976, pelagic trips and the Adirondack observers helped round out the list of "specialty" birds. And as always there were numerous "misses" such as Northern Fulmar, Greater and Cory's Shearwaters, Harlequin Duck, both eiders, Bald Eagle, Spruce Grouse, King Rail, Am. Golden Plover, Red Phalarope, Glaucous Gull, Long-eared Owl, Boreal Chickadee, Yellow-throated and Connecticut Warblers, Blue Grosbeak and White-winged Crossbill.

Several lingering species were reported, such as Pine Grosbeak and Common Redpoll in the Watertown area, Tree Sparrow near Watertown and in Allegany County—both locales at somewhat high elevations, and Fox Sparrows by four groups—all at similar locales except the feeder-frequenting birds at Geneva. It has become clear with four

years' experience that these species do linger into mid-May in the sub-montane areas. Goshawks, Cooper's and Rough-legged Hawks were seen by several groups, and both Peregrine and Merlin were reported.

Among passerines some interesting observations were made. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were well reported but only one Acadian Flycatcher was found, compared with four reports last year. A White-eyed Vireo appeared at Clifton Springs. Orange-crowned Warblers showed up only in the Rochester and Buffalo areas. While in 1976, the Kentucky Warbler was located by six groups, this year only two were tallied. "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" Warblers were seen by several groups and Clay-colored Sparrow appeared on two reports—on Long Island and in the Watertown area.

Trends in distribution and abundance of species are beginning to be evident from the year to year study of these surveys. Turkeys this year were found on eight surveys, including Long Island, the Catskill region, Ithaca and the southeastern part of state. The House Finch was present on 22 out of 28 non-pelagic surveys, being absent primarily in central parts of state and Adirondacks. The Common Nighthawk seems to be a vanishing bird as it was recorded on only 11 of 28 land counts. Numbers were reported for four counts with a total of only 11 birds. As in the past three years only a single Loggerhead Shrike was found in the entire state—again in the Watertown area. Another species in trouble seems to be the Vesper Sparrow which was not reported at all on twelve surveys. For the eight groups which reported the species, the total was a mere 29 individuals, a frightening number for what formerly was one of our common roadside birds. The once accidental Mockingbird was reported this year on 21 of 28 land counts, missing only from the upper Mohawk Valley and the central Adirondacks.

The spring migration survey is intended to be fun for participants after a long, bitter winter but it can also be valuable in disclosing trends in distribution and abundance, especially if the numbers of designated species are reported. Thanks to all groups who participated, with special appreciation to those who indicated numbers of individuals.

The survey dates for 1978 will be May 6-21. All clubs are invited to participate. Details will appear in an early spring issue of *New York Birders*.

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Ruby-crowned Kinglet breeding in Cattaraugus County: In 1972, 1974, and 1976 Robert Sundell found individual (two in 1974) Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*) during June near Red House Lake (elev. 430 m.) in Allegany State Park. No attempt was made to investigate further. On 3 June 1977 he again sighted a Ruby-crowned Kinglet singing in a pine grove on the western shore of the lake. There are other small stands of planted evergreens around the lake, which lies in a valley bordered by deciduous and mixed forest-covered hills rising to about 670 m. above sea level. The following day, I and several others saw and heard this bird in the same location. Returning on 2 July accompanied by my wife Patricia, James Gregory, Marcy Foster and Sister Dorothy McMichael, we again found the kinglet and saw it fly several times with food to a small oval island about 70 m. long containing planted evergreens and some native deciduous trees just offshore on the southwest side of the lake.

After crossing to the island by canoe we located the male kinglet and watched it twice bring food to the same place in the upper branches of a Norway Spruce on the south edge. Ms. Foster climbed the tree and found the nest well concealed among pendulous branchlets under a main branch about 3.6 m. long. It was too far out on the relatively thin branch and too obscured by foliage for her to determine its contents. There were two kinglets present, both quite agitated, the male occasionally singing a low song and circling the nest tree with food. On 24 July, we returned to the island and Ms. Foster retrieved the nest, which was 12.6 m. above ground, 2.3 m. from the trunk, and 1.3 m. from the branch tip. Such a nest site is similar to others described in the literature.

During this last visit we found six Ruby-crowned Kinglets feeding through the pines along the road to the administration building northwest of the island. An adult fed one of the young in this group. Presumably this was the family from the island nest site.

The nest was suspended from at least four branchlets 6 cm. below the main branch, a typical position. When we retrieved it, the nest was somewhat in disrepair and apparently distorted, probably owing at least in part to a severe rain and wind storm which had passed through the area earlier in the month. Therefore, measurements could not be taken, but the nest looked as if it might originally have resembled in shape a characteristic type described for the species.

Exteriorly, it is composed largely of mosses and grass fibers. Insect pupae remains and leaf fragments are also included. The interior is lined with feathers and grass fibers, and the remains of a broken egg are imbedded in the floor. The nest is now in the collection of Buffalo Museum of Science.

This is the first known breeding of the species in the Niagara Frontier Region, the second known nest from New York State, and the first from outside the Adirondacks. Bull (1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 444) cites the only pre-

vious nest, one found at Bay Pond, Franklin County, in 1942. interestingly, a second nest of this species was discovered in the Niagara Frontier Region on 11 June 1977 at Windmill Point, a short distance west of Buffalo on the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario. It will be of interest to see whether this kinglet expands its range in New York as has the Golden-crowned, or whether these are merely sporadic extralimital occurrences. If it does, I think it unlikely that it will do so with the rapidity and to the degree that the latter species has. I thank R. H. Zander and H. W. Charnley, Jr., for their analysis of nest materials.

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Hooded Merganser breeding in Schoharie County: On 26 June 1977, William Sharick, a biologist with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, observed a hen Hooded Merganser (*Mergus cucullatus*) with ten unfledged young on Franklinton Vlaie, south of Middleburg in Schoharie County. As this was the first evidence of breeding of this species in Schoharie County (Bull, 1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 153; Browne, 1975, *N.Y. Fish and Game Journal* 22: 68-70), Sharick notified Stephen Browne, also of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Since Bull (1976, *Supplement to Birds of New York State*, p. 11) called for documentation "in greater detail" for this species, on 5 July 1977 William Corbett and the senior author went to Franklinton Vlaie to observe the brood of mergansers.

We proceeded north by canoe along the west shore of the impoundment, and at 7:05 p.m. we spotted five young Hooded Mergansers scattered in sparse Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) about 50 yards from shore. As we approached, the birds gathered together and quietly preened on open water. There was no hen in sight, and no sign of the other five ducklings reported by Sharick on 26 June. The birds were first observed at about 50 yards with both a 20X telescope and 10X binoculars. As we slowly and quietly approached to within 20 or 25 feet, we could see much detail in the young birds. The narrow, pointed merganser bill was dark below; the upper mandible was orange-yellow at the base. The plumage was white below and chocolate-brown above. The brown wings showed the characteristic white patches when a bird flapped on the water, and the primaries were almost completely emerged from the sheaths. This places the young in Age Class III of Gollop and Marshall (1954, *A Guide to Aging Duck Broods in the Field*, Mississippi Flyway Council, Tech. Sect., 14 pp., mimeo), or about seven to eight weeks old. We watched the birds for ten minutes while they seemingly ignored our presence. Only when we pressed closer than 20 feet did they begin to move slowly away. We finally paddled around the mergansers, toward the north end of the vlaie, and the brood could be seen proceeding southward into drowned vegetation.

Other ducks and broods seen included five broods of Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) of various sizes and ages, one brood of Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), and a Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*).

The northern portion of Franklinton Vlaie, where most of these birds were observed, appears to be ideal breeding habitat for Hooded Mergansers; it is not unlikely that they have bred there before.

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Noddy Tern on Long Island: On the evening of 7 November 1977, a large high pressure system of cool air over the Maritime Provinces and New England combined with a low pressure system in the Gulf States, and with the remains of a tropical depression in the Atlantic, to produce a north-easter. This storm lashed the New York City region with gale-force winds and five to seven inches of rain.

On the following morning (8 November), while observing the ocean from the lee of the restaurant at Parking Lot No. 2 in Robert Moses State Park, Fire Island, Suffolk Co., I saw what I believe to have been a Noddy Tern (*Anous stolidus*). At the time of this sighting (10:30 a.m.), the rain had ceased and the visibility was clear for approximately three quarters of a mile; the wind velocity was 25-30 mph, and the sky was cloudy. I was using a 20X spotting scope.

As I scanned the ocean from left to right with my scope, I caught a glimpse of a dark bird, some 200 yards from the shore, as it entered a trough in the extremely rough sea. Anticipating where the bird might reappear, I swung toward the east and saw a fairly large tern flying low over the water. The most outstanding characteristic was its white cap. As it beat laboriously into the wind, I could see that it was dark brown both above and below. The tail was rather long and pointed, similar in shape to that of a gannet; I could not, however, confirm that the tail was actually wedge-shaped. As the bird passed directly in front of me, I had an unobstructed view of it for about five or ten seconds. It then flew into another trough, from which I did not see it emerge.

Having had the opportunity to study this species at length in Tobago, I am certain that the above observations constitute a legitimate sighting. However, since a remote possibility exists that the bird was a Black Noddy (*Anous minutus*), I felt compelled to visit the collections of the American Museum of Natural History, to compare specimens of the two species. Having done this, I feel there are three salient characteristics that tend to eliminate *A. minutus* from consideration. First and foremost, *minutus* is very dark brown, specimens appearing black even when viewed at a distance of only 60 feet (the length of the

room in the American Museum). The difference is even more apparent when specimens of the two species are viewed side by side. Second is size, specimens showing that *minutus* is definitely the smaller of the two species; my impression at Robert Moses State Park was of a fairly large tern. Third, Atlantic populations of *minutus* exhibit a white cap that ends abruptly at the blackish nape, providing a distinct demarcation line, whereas in *stolidus* the pale crown blends gradually into the brown of the nape; I feel sure I would have seen such a line of demarcation had it been present.

In conclusion, I remain convinced that the bird I saw was *Anous stolidus* rather than *Anous minutus*.

Jim Ash, 163-29 87th Street, Howard Beach, New York 11414

The above sighting constitutes the first report of the Noddy Tern for New York State; in the absence of a specimen or photograph, the record must be referred to the Hypothetical List. —Eds.

Brown Boobies at Riis Park, Queens County: At 5:15 p.m. on 29 September 1977 the authors were standing north of the Mall at Jacob Riis Park in Queens County, enjoying the tail end of a large migration of hawks. The weather was clear, with light winds from the northwest, producing a flight of several thousand accipiters and falcons along the barrier beach that day.

At this time two large, gannet-like birds were perceived flying close together toward us from the direction of the ocean. The birds flew with continuous, deep strokes of the wings, one bird slightly in front of the other. They passed over us at an altitude of 50 or 60 feet, continued on toward the base of the Marine Park Bridge, and then turned back toward the ocean and disappeared from view. The underparts of the birds were patterned like those of an oystercatcher—the dark head and neck sharply separated from the white breast and abdomen by a line across the breast from the leading edge of one wing to that of the other. The tapered tail was dark. The wing linings were white, edged with black, the trailing edge broader than the leading. The long, tapering bills were yellowish. The upperparts were not seen clearly, but the upper surface of the wing appeared dark brown.

All these points leave no doubt in our minds that these birds were Brown Boobies (*Sula leucogaster*), even though neither of us has had previous experience with the species. Both of us are familiar with Gannets (*Morus bassanus*), including subadults.

We wish to thank Tom Davis for his assistance in the preparation of this note.
Hannalore Richard, 23 Bartlett Place, Brooklyn, New York 11229, and
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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

ROBERT W. SMART

The Fall of 1977 was certainly a bad one for the "fair-weather birders." Nearly all of the regional reporters made it clear that it was a wretched season with much more than normal rainfall; often occurring on weekends, when most observers can be afield. The reports of the migration, therefore, probably do not represent the real picture. Most regions reported a poor migration of thrushes, vireos, warblers, etc., but notice the large number of birds killed at the Elmira Tower in Region 3 and the reports of many chip-notes heard overhead in Region 5, the latter probably a function of persistent low clouds and mist. On such nights thousands of unidentifiable chips may be heard, with very few birds in evidence the following day. It might be very interesting to set up an organized effort to count these chip-notes during the active migration period, to determine the peaks of the flight. Exact species identification would not be important; the volume of the flight would be very useful.

The very wet weather affected not only the birders but also the habitat; most of the upstate regions complained bitterly of poor shorebirding. The usual flats and pond edges were drowned with the excess water. The low duck counts in some areas may well be another result. If ducks can find remote backwaters in which to rest, they will avoid some of the more usual, and populated, areas. All in all, the normal migration patterns and observations were badly disrupted by the inclement weather.

In a state of such diverse ecological and meteorological characteristics, it is not too surprising to find Region 7 calling the season "kinder than usual." It is true that the rains came but winter held off—a fact to be very grateful for in the North Country.

It was gratifying to see the Horned Lark records from Region 1 identified as to subspecies. It is very useful to know when a local population leaves and a more northerly population arrives. Since the *species* has become the only "countable" form, too many birders are neglecting to gather this kind of information. Is it really true that no "Ipswich" Sparrows were reported in the state this fall? I would suspect that this is so, but I would also wager that a number were seen. It would be nice to know the age and sex of the rarer raptors and the color phases of Rough-legs and Screech Owls. Were there any blue morphs seen among the flocks of Snow Geese? Now that they have

been lumped we may never know. Observers and editors are urged to include this sort of detailed information.

It is absolutely impossible to derive any meaningful pattern in the departure and arrival dates in the following reports. There were both very early and very late dates in both categories. It is, of course, much easier to discern a late departure than an early one and the reports are sprinkled with many examples. Note, for example, the November Common Nighthawk, White-eyed Vireo, Blackburnian Warbler and Magnolia Warbler from Region 10. It is much more difficult to recognize the departure dates for species that just seem to slip away—when *did* I see that last Wood Thrush?

The season ended with a chilling foretaste of winter. Northern finches began arriving in good numbers but it was uncertain whether they would stay for long because of the rather poor cone crop. However, it was good to have siskins, redpolls, Pine Grosbeaks and White-winged Crossbills around again. Goldfinches and Purple Finches were present in good numbers and Evening Grosbeaks were wrecking the budgets of the local feeders. Northern Shrikes had appeared in good numbers by the end of the period and it seemed as though one might look forward to an interesting winter.

In the foregoing I know that I have slighted the movements of many of the common species such as Black-capped Chickadee and Red-breasted Nuthatch, both of which were reported in major migratory numbers. There were many excellent hawk counts reported, and the coast turned in the usual fascinating pelagic counts (note the kittiwake flight of Nov. 26 and the record late Manx Shearwater at the same time), but in the fall season this editor looks for the roster of wandering birds that have drifted from their normal areas to the east coast. It is certainly the most exciting time of the year for the active birder. This past fall there were a total of 59 species listed as rarities in the ten regions of the state. Of course, one birder's rarity is another's trash bird. The House Finch would not excite a Long Island resident and the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee and Gray Jay are not particularly remarkable for residents of the Adirondacks. Each region has its own exciting birds, which are underlined in the various reports. A minimum of 22 species would cause excitement if they turned up anywhere in the state. At this time of the year the coast is particularly favored, for wandering birds tend to keep going until stopped by the great expanse of the ocean. However, each region had its own goody.

An Eared Grebe was seen in Regions 1 and 2. Region 1 also contributed the only Lesser Black-backed Gull. Region 2 came through with Varied Thrush, Bohemian Waxwing, Blue Grosbeak, and Harris' Sparrow. Region 3 contributed the Oregon race of the Dark-eyed Junco and a possible Brewer's Blackbird. Region 5, always a tough competitor, also had Bohemian Waxwings, a Yellow-headed Blackbird, and really hit the jackpot with a Long-tailed Jaeger (note also the 66 Parasitic Jaegers). Regions 6, 7, 8 and 9 had some marvelous birds with some new regional records but the bird of state wide interest was the Lark Bunting in Region 9.

As was mentioned earlier, the coast is in the best position to pick up fall stragglers and this year it outdid itself. The list of birds is mind-boggling. The details are in the report but just consider the following partial list: Brown Booby, White Ibis, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Skua (sp.?) Black Guillemot, Say's Phoebe, Mountain Bluebird, Wheat-eat, Varied Thrush, Bell's Vireo, Brewer's Blackbird and Boat-tailed Grackle. It almost seems unfair; we need a share-the-wealth program.

One species was left out of the above list for it has to receive the BOTS award. The Noddy Tern seen flying in from the ocean at Robert Moses State Park is the first sight record for this species and the late date is most remarkable.

By the time you read this it will have been winter for quite a long time. Have the winter finches stayed in the area? Have other northern birds come down? What have the feeders turned up? But most of all—can we survive until spring?

Millbrook School, Millbrook, New York 12545

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

It was "water, water everywhere" for the fall season except for the nearly normal October—but even then it rained on half the days. Precipitation during a warm September was 5.7 in. (14.5 cm.) *above* normal, but November, with temperatures 3.5° F (1.9° C) warmer than usual, tied with the previous record high of 5.59 in. (14.2 cm.). The first killing frost in the Southern Tier came Oct. 11, a month late, and ponds were still mostly open at the end of the period.

Abundant foods were wild black cherries, which kept robins, flickers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks here later than usual, black birch seed, relished by smaller winter finches, and

high chipmunk and mouse populations (SE). The cone crop was good, but acorns and beechnuts were scarce.

Positives for autumn include 1) a splendid showing of loons, 2) a better than usual Ruffed Grouse population—a reflection of the favorable “June brood rearing period” (SE), fair reports of Ring-necked Pheasants, and Turkeys doing exceptionally well, 3) an interesting shorebird representation, 4) excellent tallies of Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper and E. Bluebird, 5) a strong N. Shrike flight, 6) a fine sampling of winter finches, and 7) slightly better numbers of Fox Sparrows.

Negatives for the season include 1) “no migration” at Farmersville Sta.—suspicion that birds overflow us to drop in Md. where reports are “best year ever” (DC, bander), 2) fewer ducks, that were probably seduced by the mild fall into staying north longer, 3) almost no swans and NO Goshawks, 4) a worrisome status for the E. Phoebe, 5) very few reports of the Tufted Titmouse, Winter Wren, Carolina Wren and Mockingbird, 6) low numbers of both kinglets, and 7) a poor warbler flight.

Autumn rarities include Eared Grebe, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, King Eider, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Purple Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Red and Northern Phalaropes, Parasitic Jaeger, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Laughing Gull, Barn Owl, Pine Warbler, House Finch, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow. *Addenda* from the summer are Cinnamon Teal, Marbled Godwit, Wilson’s and Northern Phalaropes, Worm-eating Warbler and Kentucky Warbler.

Abbreviations: ACBC—Allegany Co. Bird Census, Oct. 9; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; H+ = record high, H = high, or L = low—status designations for some RC and ACBC species; NP—Nature Preserve; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; *Prothon*—The Prothonotary, BOS publication; RC—Regional Census, Oct. 9, directed by BOS (includes ACBC); SF or SP—State Forest or Park.

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LOONS—DUCKS: It was the best loon flight in years, with a max 104 Com. Loons at Hamburg Nov. 12 (RA,PA), and appearance of more than usual Red-throated Loons, with 2 at Olcott Oct. 23 (Happ+), one at Ft. Niagara Nov. 19, 25 (DF, O’Dell), and max 4 at Niagara Falls Nov. 20, 22 (RA,PS+). A Red-necked Grebe came down at Cuba L Oct. 24, Nov. 12 (AnS), and an **EARED GREBE** was identified at Mayville Oct. 29 (RS). A max 4 Double-crested Cormorants were seen intermittently at Dunkirk Oct. 10-21 (RA,PS,RS). Of the total from 3 areas of at least 22 Black-crowned Night Herons reported, one was at Cuba L Oct. 22-31 (AnS), while an imm of the less common **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON** was verified at Times Beach Sept. 10 (DF). The only Am. Bittern for the period was reported from Cheektowaga Oct. 11 (DF). Max of an exceptionally poor Whistling Swan flight was 35 at Caneadea Nov. 17 (LW). However, on Oct. 3, Canada Geese passed over in flock after flock, with 2615 being counted over Belmont in the am (DB,LB), and an unusual concentration of 250 remained in Hume thru Nov. (KP); the wild pair was still at Farmersville Sta. Nov. 30 (DC)—a full year of free-loading! Early Brant numbered 105 on RC (H+) and 2 were also early at Wilson Sept. 24 (DF); peak of the fair flight was 61 in the Olcott-Shadigee area Oct. 16, 23 (RA,DF+). Max of Snow Goose reports was no less than 25 over N. Harbor, Buffalo, Oct. 14 (RB *fide* JT). The following are high counts, other

than RC, unless otherwise indicated: Mallard, 200 in Hume Nov. 1-30 (KP); Black Duck, 20 in Hume Nov. 25 (KP); Gadwall, 100 at Iroquois NWR Nov. 20 (Freelands); Pintail, 75 at Barcelona Oct. 2 (RS); Am. Wigeon, 450 at Barcelona Oct. 2 (RS); N. Shoveler, 20 at Oak Orchard WMA Oct. 23 (Happ+); Redhead, 175 at Mayville Oct. 29 (RS); Canvasback, 8 in Oak Orchard area Oct. 23 (Happ+); Com. Goldeneye, 31 on RC (H); Oldsquaw, 40 in Olcott-Shadigee area Oct. 23 (DF, Happ+); KING EIDER, one at Niagara Falls Nov. 22 (PS); White-winged Scoter, 350 in Olcott-Shadigee area Oct. 23 (Happ+); Surf Scoter, 12 at Dunkirk Oct. 15 (RS); Black Scoter, 20, early, at Olcott Sept. 24 (DF); Ruddy Duck, 109 on RC (H) and 145 at Niagara Falls Power Res. Nov. 30 (PS); Hooded Merganser, 20 at Iroquois NWR Oct. 23 (Happ+) and Nov. 20 (Freelands); and Com. Merganser, 2 at Cuba L Nov. 27 (AnS).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vultures numbered 92 on RC (H+). Sharp-shinned Hawks found were 8 on RC and singles in 9 areas. Cooper's noted were 6 on RC and singles in 6 areas. Red-shouldered Hawks tallied 3 on RC but *none* on ACBC where there has been a steady decline since 7 in 1973. 2 Rough-legged Hawks arr early for RC. The only report of **BALD EAGLE** was one imm in Amity Sept. 20 (VP). Ospreys tallied 3 on RC and 11 were totaled from 9 areas. An imm male **PEREGRINE FALCON**, hit by a school bus near Olean Sept. 26, was treated unsuccessfully at the Forness "Hawk Hideaway" and the specimen is now in the collection at St. Bonaventure Univ. (SE, JF, MFr). High count of Am. Coot was 600 at Mayville Nov. 6 (RS, Miga+). Four Am. Golden Plovers were spotted near Allegany Sept. 10 (DS), increasing to 18 there on Sept. 15 (SE); at Clarence the species reached a max 125 for the Region Oct. 2 (AM, WM). A single Black-bellied Plover was found near Allegany Oct. 9, 23, 25 (DS, SE). Noteworthy sandpiper reports from an interesting flight are: 3 Whimbrels at Times Beach Sept. 3 (PS); a Red Knot at Buffalo Oct. 4 (SP); 3 **PURPLE SANDPIERS** at Kuckville Nov. 12 (Perrigo); 25 Pectoral Sandpipers on RC (H+); 2 Stilt Sandpipers at Times Beach Sept. 1-4 (DF, PS); one **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** at Barcelona Sept. 5 (RS) and 3 at Clarence the same day (AM, WM); 2 **MARBLED GODWITS** at Times Beach Sept. 9 (C. Krog+); a Sanderling 4 mi. west of Allegany Sept. 19 (SE)—first in years in Chautauqua Co.; a **RED PHALAROPE** also 4 mi. w. of Allegany Sept. 8, "collected under special permit Sept. 12"—first record for Cattaraugus Co. (SE+); and a **NORTHERN PHALAROPE** at South Buffalo Harbor Sept. 10 (DF). A **PARASITIC JAEGER** was seen at Olcott Sept. 24 (DF) with 2 there Oct. 2 (RA+), and singles appeared at Golden Hill SP Oct. 22 (Fessler) and at Hamburg Town Park Nov. 11 (RA). Highlights of the larid season include: Great Black-backed Gull, 146 on RC (H+); one Glaucous Gull at Niagara Gorge Nov. 30 (HA); **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**, at least 2 on Niagara R. at Niagara Falls in late Oct., one remaining thru Nov. 26 (JT); **LAUGHING GULL**, 6 at Dunkirk Oct. 10 (RA) and 5 there Oct. 13, 15 (RS); Franklin's Gull, singles in Times Beach and Buffalo areas irregularly in Sept. (mob) and up to 2 at Niagara Falls in Nov. (RA, PS); Bonaparte's Gull, 50,000 at Niagara R. Nov. 19 (DF+); Little Gull, 21 totaled from 6 sites in L. Erie and Niagara R. areas; Forster's Tern, one on RC, max 2 at LaSalle Park Sept. 17, 18 (RA+) and max 2 at Niagara R., Buffalo, Sept. 17-27 (PS, MFr); and Caspian Tern, max 4 at Times Beach Sept. 4, 17 (MF, RA+) and one, late, at Barcelona Oct. 2 (RS).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Exceptional on the RC were: Rock Dove, 1,824 (H+); a **BARN OWL**; Great Horned Owl, 18 (H+); and Belted Kingfisher, 55 (L). The only report of Short-eared Owl was one at Golden Hill SP Oct. 22 (Fessler). Hairy Woodpeckers numbered only 37 on ACBC (L). Max of Com. Nighthawk flight was 100 at Tonawanda Sept. 1 (PS) and of Chimney Swifts was "1000's" at the Peace Bridge, Niagara R. Oct. 2 (DS). The latter numbered 528 on RC (H+). 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers were tallied on RC and singles appeared in only 4 areas.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: A Great Crested Flycatcher on RC was verified for a record late date, Oct. 9, for w. New York. On the RC, only 32 E. Phoebes were counted (L), but E. Wood Pewees tallied 6 (H). Early Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris alpestris*) were

2 on RC and 20 at Clarence Sept. 25 (DF). Horned Larks (*E. a. praticola*) numbered 205 on RC (up from 74 last year). "1000's" of Tree Swallows were congregated at the Peace Bridge, Niagara R. Oct. 2 (DS) and staying late were 10 Bank Swallows on RC. Tufted Tit-mice numbered 30 on RC (H+) but from other reports only 7 were totaled from 5 areas. Eleven Long-billed Marsh Wrens appeared for RC. Rated "L" on RC are 8 Winter Wrens, 2,127 Am. Robins and 18 Hermit Thrushes. E. Bluebirds tallied 123 on RC and at least 61 were totaled from 10 scattered locations. Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen at East Amherst Sept. 10 (DF), and, a month late, at Lackawanna SP Oct. 24 (Kikta). Max of the Water Pipit flight was 112 at Clarence Sept. 25 (AM, WM). Single N. Shrikes appeared at 9 sites.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: The only Yellow-throated Vireo report was one at Spring Brook Sept. 1-6 (DD), but 10 Philadelphia Vireos were noted in 6 locations. Although warbler species were well represented, numbers dropping in to be counted were exceptionally low, and spicing up the migration were: Orange-crowned Warbler, one, early, at Clarence Sept. 11, one at Times Beach Sept. 19, and 3 on RC; single N. Parulas in three areas; max 40 Black-throated Green Warblers at Amherst Sept. 6 (DF); 22 Blackpoll Warblers counted from 7 sites; **PINE WARBLERS**, one at East Amherst Sept. 8 (DF), 3 at Oakland Rural Cem. Sept. 24 (DF) and one found dead at Tonawanda Oct. 10 (PS); a Connecticut Warbler at East Amherst Sept. 6 (DF); and single Hooded Warblers near Allenburg Bog Sept. 4 (J. Chapple) and near Barcelona Sept. 25 (RS).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Maxima of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak flight were 45 at Amherst Sept. 6 and 40 at Buckhorn Is. SP Sept. 10 (DF)—record numbers for our Region; last of season for the species were 2 at Spring Brook Oct. 3 (DD). An Indigo Bunting in Ward Oct. 23 (EB) was 11 days late. Rating "H+" on the RC were 213 Evening Grosbeaks and 241 Purple Finches. The well-established **HOUSE FINCH** was well reported with 20 on RC and with max for the season 24 at Eggertsville during Nov. (AM, WM). Winter finches began arriving in Oct. and are well represented: Pine Grosbeak, 7 near Vandalia Nov. 19 (SE) and one at Oakland Rural Cem. Nov. 30 (FR, Schwartz, AU); Com. Redpoll, one early, on RC, and 8 at Iroquois NWR Nov. 20 (Freelands); Pine Siskin, a good flight with max 40 at Golden Hill SP Oct. 29 (Fessler); Am. Goldfinch, 1,089 on RC (L)—perhaps not properly "winter" finches, but nice to have all year 'round; Red Crossbill, 8, early, at Fillmore Oct. 27 (LW) and 20 at Buffalo Oct. 31 (Ghosen); and White-winged Crossbill, 3, early, at Somerset Oct. 23 (DF, Happ+), a few in Cattaraugus Co. Oct.-Nov. (SE), and 8 at Forest Lawn Nov. 2 (Ghosen). Rufous-sided Towhees numbered 59 on RC (L), while singles in Orchard Park Nov. 14-30 (Saville) and in Allentown Nov. 15-30 (L. Simons) may winter here. A Henslow's Sparrow was found at Times Beach Sept. 1 (DF) and Sept. 3 (HK, WK). A **SHARP-TAILED SPARROW** (*Ammospiza caudacuta altera*) was identified at Tonawanda WMA Oct. 2 (RA+). Fox Sparrows tallied 10 on RC. The Lincoln's Sparrow numbered 11 on RC and a total 4 were seen in 2 areas. A Lapland Longspur arr at Clarence Nov. 2, and 2 more appeared at Ft. Niagara Nov. 19 (DF). 70 Snow Buntings arr at Somerset Oct. 23 (DF, Happ+) and best seasonal count was 1,100 at Ft. Niagara Nov. 19 (DF+).

Addenda: Following are several noteworthy records not included in the summer report. MF climbed the Norway Spruce to locate an active **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET** nest at Red House Lake, Allegany SP, July 2, while with her in the birding party were RA, PA and JG. RS had found one of this species at this location June 4 and 5, late. On July 24 an ad was feeding at least 4 fledglings in the same area (see: JT, 1977 *Prothonotary*, 43: 120). Apparently, this is the first authentic nesting record for this species for Region 1 and only the second for the state! Other omitted exciting summer sightings are: two **CINNAMON TEALS** at Prendergast Pt. Aug. 21 (RS, Kibler+); a Red Knot at Times Beach Aug. 19 (PS); a **MARBLED GODWIT** at Buffalo Harbor Aug. 17 (PS); six Ruddy Turnstones at Buffalo Aug. 19 (PS); single **WILSON'S PHALAROPES** at South Buffalo Aug. 19 (PS), at Times Beach Aug. 19 (RA) and at Iroquois NWR Aug. 21 (AM, WM); early **NORTHERN PHALA-**

ROPES: one at Times Beach Aug. 19 (PS) and six at Buffalo Aug. 28 (RA+); two Olive-sided Flycatchers at Oak Orchard July 16 (ASK+)-very late (nesting?); a WORM-EATING WARBLER in N. Harmony, Chautauqua Co. June 26 (AR *fide JT Prothon* Vol 45 p 105); and a KENTUCKY WARBLER at East Amherst Aug. 19 (DF).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 – GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

This season's weather was generally poor for birds and birders alike. After a brief dry interlude in early September, the rains settled in on the 13th and persisted through mid-October. The total rainfall for September was over 10 inches (25.4 cm.), a record, with most of this falling in the latter half of the month and drowning the peak period of the fall passerine migration. The last ten days of October brought a break, with some sun drawing forth the birders. November began raw and windy, moderated through the middle of the month, then ended on a cold snap that brought the first real accumulation of snow and the first freezing of some of the shallower bodies of water on the 27th. The month lived up to its reputation for gloom and wet.

Many of the seasonal trends might be anticipated from the weather summary. The fall migration as a flow was virtually non-existent. There were bright spots and isolated good days, and most species expected were recorded, but numbers of individuals were generally low and latest dates early. There were interesting contrasts. Brant appeared in good numbers over an extended period, but where were the Canada Geese? Puddle ducks never really showed up, but scoters were present in good numbers; shore-birding was generally poor with the shoreline flats inundated in water or weeds, yet several species were recorded in good numbers or on late dates; herons and rails and their allies were out early, and the winter gull concentrations were late; most passerine migrants were last recorded on relatively early dates; and an invasion of winter finches and other boreal species began early. The appearance of the finches and a number of rarities brought observers flocking to several of the local areas.

Notable specific trends for the season included lows for Pied-billed Grebe, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Pheasant, Winter Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, and Loggerhead Shrike, and highs for Black Scoter, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, several winter finches, Dark-eyed Junco, and White-throated Sparrow. RARITIES: Common Eider, King Eider, Peregrine Falcon, Whimbrel, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Black-legged Kittiwake, Parasitic Jaeger, Varied Thrush, Bohemian Waxwing, Blue Grosbeak, and Harris' Sparrow.

ABBREVIATIONS: BB—Braddock Bay area; D—Durand-Eastman Park, Rochester; H—Hamlin Beach State Park; IB—Irondequoit Bay area; IC—Island Cottage woods area; NM—Nine Mile Point, Webster; and WL—West Lakeshore.

OBSERVERS: Kris Brown, Mike Carlson, Julie Claffey, Roger Clark, Bill Colsman, Jerry Czech, Fritz Davis, Bob & Frank Dobson, Kay & Jim Doris, Michael Ehlers, June Feder, John & Arlieen Foster, Genesee Ornithological Society, Kevin Griffith, Evelyn Hamilton, Norm Henderson, Øivind Jensen, Scott Kampmeier, Allen Kemnitzer, John Koopmans, Gary Leubner, Jim & Walt Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Frank & Mary Mattei,

Bob & Margaret McKinney, Neil & Laura Moon, Leon Nawojchik, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Chip Perrigo, Joe & Eleanor Pohl, Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Susan Seymour, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Steve Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Anne Stear, Alison Stewart, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Bill Symonds, Joe Taylor, Steve Taylor, David, Mike & Tom Tetlow, Stan & Helen Thomas, David Tremmel, Alice & Earl Wallace, Eleanor Weld, Munro Will, Doris Wilton.

LOONS—DUCKS: The fall loon flight was fairly good with maxima recorded: Com. Loon, 300 NM Nov. 12 (AK); and Red-throated, 150 H Oct. 30 (CP,mob). Grebe records were generally low with only 2 records of Red-necked Grebe contrasting with last Spring's numbers. Also of note was Horned Grebe: 67 WL Oct. 25 (KD,mob). Double-crested Cormorant records of 1-2 birds were scattered thru the season with a late bird at BB Nov. 10 thru (NH,mob). A rare fall record here was Whistling Swan: 4 Long Pond Nov. 4 (FDO). In the fall passage of Canada Geese, no large concentrations were noted; even small-sized flocks were relatively scarce. Of interest were 350 H Nov. 29 (NH). In contrast was the good Brant flight: 850 IB Oct. 23 (AK); max 1000 H Nov. 5 (WL) and its extension from early Oct. to 6 WL Nov. 29 (NH). Among the puddle ducks, the only record of special note was Wood Duck: max 60 WL Sept. 16 (NH). The divers produced many good observations: Greater Scaup: 2000+ NM Oct. (WL,mob); 2500+ NM Nov. 12 (WL,RS); White-winged Scoter: 9 Charlotte Sept. 11 (B&FD); max 250 WL Nov. 12 (NH); Surf Scoter: 60 Sodus Bay Sept. 25 (D,M&TT); max 250 H Oct. 2 (BS); and Black Scoter: 3 H Sept. 25 (B&FD); max 700 Webster Nov. 6 (WL,MAS). In addition dark-winged scoter concentrations of 5000+ were estimated several times in late October on Lake Ontario. Both eiders also appeared, **COMMON EIDER:** 1 fem. Sodus Bay Nov. 13 (D,M&TT); **KING EIDER:** 1 imm male Webster Nov. 23 (RBA).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: The fall raptor migration was quite typical with highlights: a late Turkey Vulture: 1 D Nov. 15 (EH,AnS); numbers of Rough-legged Hawks max, 10 IC Nov. 1 (KD,MS,AnS); Bald Eagle: 1 imm Northrup Creek Nov. 6 (RO); 1 imm H Nov. 13 (AK); **PEREGRINE FALCON:** 1 imm. H Oct. 17 (WL,CP); 1 Webster Oct. 2 (JCz); 1 Webster Oct. 17 (JCz); and Merlin: 1 Clarkson Nov. 12 (MM,BS). Ring-necked Pheasant records continue to decline with the policy of decreased restocking. Rails and their allies simply vanished early. In spite of the generally poor shorebirding, there were several interesting records from flooded fields and farm ponds: Am. Golden Plover: max 221 Kendall Sept. 22 (NH); 1 Greece Nov. 6 (B&FD); WHIMBREL: 1 Kendall Sept. 4-5 (CP,BS,mob); 1 Point Breeze Sept. 11 (BS); 1 Point Breeze Sept. 18 (WL); 1 Charlotte Sept. 25 (B&FD); late Spotted Sandpiper: 1 Greece Oct. 20 (PR,JSK); Purple Sandpiper: 3 Point Breeze Nov. 12 (CP); 3 Sodus Bay Nov. 13 (D&TT); 1 Charlotte Nov. 25 (RC,CP,mob); Long-billed Dowitcher: 2 Greece Oct. 1 (RO); 1 Perinton Oct. 8-18 (R&SS, mob); **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** 2-5 Kendall Sept. 4-22 (CP,BS,mob); and **RED PHALAROPE:** 1 Lake Ontario at IB Nov. 12 (RS); 1 Pultneyville Nov. 19 (STA). Only one jaeger was reported this year, a **PARASITIC JAEGER:** H. Oct. 30 (C&BP). Gulls were relatively scarce thru the season. Only three white-winged gulls were recorded. Glaucous Gull: 1 NM Oct. 16 (JT); and 1 H Nov. 12 (RS); Iceland Gull: 1 Sodus Bay Oct. 10 (M&TT). Little Gull was well reported as the Bonaparte's Gull numbers increased: 1 Charlotte Sept. 18 (RBA); 1 BB Oct. 21-22 (NH, WL); 1-4 Lake Ontario from D to IB Nov. 13-26 (R&SS,mob); 1 H Nov. 20 (B&FD); and 1 BB Nov. 26 (ME,DT). On Nov. 12 there was an unprecedented movement of **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** 3 NM (AK); 16 H to BB Nov. 12 (STA, J&WL); 1 Point Breeze Nov. 13 (BS); 1 Sodus Bay Nov. 13 (M&TT); and 6 East Lakeshore Nov. 19 (STA). From the timing of the records the total number of individuals is believed to be 17; all immatures. The terns of late Aug. lingered into Sept. with Forster's Tern: max 15 BB Sept. 2 (NH); and Com. Tern: max 80 BB Sept. 2 (NH,mob).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: There was little activity in this category. A few interesting owl records were received: Barred Owl: 1 Bristol Hills Oct. 1 (RBA); Long-eared Owl: 1 H

Nov. 6 (RO); 1 D Nov. 27 (RS); and Short-eared Owl 1 Greece Nov. 27 (JK). Most migrants were last recorded at early dates. Two records of interest were: Chimney Swift: 26 D Oct. 9 (WLI, MAS); and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at a feeder: 1 Irondequoit Oct. (NH).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Again, most of the summer residents and fall migrants left early. Notable flycatcher records were: 1 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 IC Sept. 5 (RS); and 1 Manitou Sept. 18 (RO); and Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 Penfield Sept. 10 (MC); and 1 H Sept. 17 (CP,WLI,PR). An irruption of Black-capped Chickadees was noted, with flocks moving along the lakeshore; one daily observer estimated a minimum of 10,000 over the period Oct. 24-31. The peak counted was 763, BB Oct. 27 (JSk) in 45 minutes. Red-breasted Nuthatch, among other species, accompanied this surge: max 300 H Oct. 22 (RBA). Among the wrens, Carolina Wren reports picked up a bit: 1 Sodus Bay Sept. 3 (WLI); 1 Brighton Oct. 6 (MW); 1 IB Oct. 28 (RS); and 1 Webster Oct. 29 (A&EW); and a migrant Short-billed Marsh Wren singing: IC Oct. 10 (STA). The "thrush" group passed early with a few interesting notes: Mockingbird is still very low for the region compared with pre-Jan.; Gray Catbird: 1 D Nov. 19 (GOS); Am. Robin: 150 D Nov. 13 (GOS), presumably to winter as usual with the abundant crab apple supply; **VARIED THRUSH:** 1 fem D Nov. 21 thru (LN,mob), a first record for Monroe County, 2nd record for the region, observed well by over 50 birders to date, photo (KG). Searchers for the Varied Thrush turned up a variety of other birds in the park: a late Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 D Nov. 13 thru, periodically (GOS,mob); Cedar Waxwing: max 300 D Nov. 13 (GOS); and **BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** first, 12 D Nov. 12 (RBA); max 18 D Nov. 13 (GOS); and assorted observations of 1-9 D Nov. 14 thru (mob). Other records include: N. Shrike: first, 2 BB Oct. 18 (NH); Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 35 IC Sept. 4 (NH); and late Water Pipit: 20 BB Nov. 6 (RO).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: This group, too, was recorded as passing early in unspectacular numbers with but a few interesting notes: Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 Rochester Oct. 1 (RO); 1 Bristol Hills Oct. 1 (RBA); Bay-breasted Warbler: 1 D Nov. 22-27 (RC,CP,BS,mob), late; Pine Warbler: 1 D Sept. 18 (RO); 1 H Sept. 22 (CP); and 1 NM Oct. 16 (WLI,MAS); Prairie Warbler: 1 male IC Sept. 14 (SSm); and Connecticut Warbler: 1 imm Scottsville Sept. 21 (JSk); and 1 dead Rochester Sept. 23 (GL).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Blackbird numbers were low except for a good movement of Rusty Blackbird. Finch records include: lingering Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 Irondequoit Nov. 6 (NH); female **BLUE GROSBEAK:** well-described Lima Sept. 5 (J&AF), a regional first; the now usual pockets of House Finch. One of the major stories of the season was the invasion of winter finches, including good numbers of Evening Grosbeak; large flocks of Purple Finch: max 200 H Sept. 22 (CP); small flocks of Pine Grosbeak: 2-13 from Sodus Bay to D to H Oct. 28 thru (mob); Com. Redpoll: 1 H Oct. 5 (MC); and 1 H Oct. 23 (J&WLI); Pine Siskin: first, 2 H Sept. 22 (CP); max 500 H Oct. 18-22 (RBA,mob); Red Crossbill: 1 Gates Oct. 1, 3 H Oct. 29, and 1 D Nov. 27 (RS); and a large flock of White-winged Crossbill: 150-200 H Oct. 30, thru (RBA,GOS,mob), with smaller flocks scattered across the region by late Nov. Not to be totally outdone, the sparrows staged a few creditable appearances: as might be expected, Dark-eyed Junco joined the invasion: max 2250 H Oct. 22 (RBA). Chipping Sparrow lingered: 1 Pittsford Nov. 1 (AIS); 1 H Nov. 24 (CP); **HARRIS' SPARROW:** 1 imm Greece Oct. 17-19 (PR,mob(37)), photo; a good flight of White-throated Sparrow: max 1000 H Sept. 22 (CP); and 900 H Oct. (RBA); Fox Sparrow was well reported about the first of Nov.; and Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 BB Sept. 5 (RS); and 1 Greece Sept. 19 (RD). Lapland Longspur appeared very early; 1 Kendall Sept. 21 (CP,BS); and built to good numbers: max 50 Kendall Oct. 23 (B&FD); mixed with large flocks of Snow Buntings: max 1000 Kendall Oct. 29 (R&SS); and moderate-sized flocks of Horned Larks.

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REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

Nearly three weeks of beautiful Indian summer, sandwiched between two prolonged periods of heavy, soaking rains, topped with a frosting of snow after Thanksgiving, pretty well describes the fall weather. September started out normally but from mid-September to mid-October frequent heavy rains fell. In Ithaca, the rainfall was triple the normal amount in September, and double in October, accompanied by cool, cloudy weather. The last ten days of October, and the first ten days of November, were bright, warm and sunny, with the temperature running as high as 70° F. Cooler weather, with more heavy rains, followed. Snow occurred on November 12 and several inches fell after Thanksgiving.

Shorebirding at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, which was almost nil after the heavy August rains, picked up a bit in early September, as lowering water levels exposed a few mudflats. But heavy rains again covered them and, except for a few Killdeers no shorebirds were to be found after mid-September.

Comments on the fall migration were mostly on the negative side. It was regarded by many observers as dull and poor for thrushes, kinglets, vireos, warblers and sparrows. Reduced field activity, due to the incessant inclement weather, may have contributed to the feeling that birds were scarce.

The record-breaking kills at the TV towers in Elmira indicate that birds were going through despite the birders' inability to find them. In five rainy nights with low cloud ceilings, September 20-24, a record-breaking 3,862 birds were picked up dead at the base of this tower. On the night of September 19-20 alone, 1,817 birds of 39 species were killed. Of the overall total of 48 species there were 24 warblers, 5 vireos and 4 each of thrushes and flycatchers. One unusual victim was a Common Gallinule.

On the brighter side, the number of ducks at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in late November was up, particularly Mallards and Blacks. Two hundred Brant southeast of Ithaca were unusual. There appears to have been an irruption of Black-capped Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Despite last winter's severe weather a few Carolina Wrens appear to be hanging on, mostly in the southern half of the Region. House Finches have now spread over the entire Region. Evening Grosbeaks came in early and in good numbers. Purple Finches, Pine Siskins and both crossbills have been reported, perhaps auguring a good winter finch year.

Rarities were hard to come by, with a possible Brewer's Blackbird and the Oregon form of the Dark-eyed Junco being the only ones reported.

Abbreviations: arr—arrival date; Cay—Cayuga; Co—County; dep—departure date; L—Lake; max—maximum; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SP—State Park.

Compilers and contributors: W. E. Benning; Jack Brubaker (Watkins Glen); Bernice Hilfiker; Gene Hocutt (MNWR); Wilifred Howard; Malcolm Lerch (Penn Yan); Dorothy McIlroy (Ithaca); Mary Welles (Elmira).

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: present thruout the period at Branchport. Horned Grebe: Cay L Nov. 1. Pied-billed Grebe: plentiful MNWR. Double-crested Cormorant: singles MNWR Sept. 5 and Oct. 19. Green Heron: a very late bird at Elmira Nov. 29 (WH). Black-crowned Night Heron: 2 immatures at Watkins Glen SP Sept. 8-10 where they are seldom seen. Am. Bittern: 1 MNWR Oct. 20—late. Whistling Swan: max 10 MNWR Nov. 10. Canada Goose: flights at Elmira Sept. 27, Oct. 3 and Nov. 20; "tremendous flight" Watkins Glen Oct. 7; max MNWR 35,000 Oct. 20. Brant: 200 stayed overnight on Ellis Hollow Road, Ithaca, Nov. 6 (Schat). Snow Goose: 1 with 20 Canadas Elmira Sept. 27; max 20 MNWR

Oct. 15; 25-30 King Ferry Nov. 6; 50 Taughannock Nov. 10.

Ducks: the maximum counts reported by the MNWR personnel are as follows:

Mallard	15,000	Nov. 30	Redhead	100	Oct. 31
Black Duck	4,000	Nov. 30	Ring-necked Duck	50	Oct. 20
Gadwall	2,000	Sept. 30	Canvasback	50	Oct. 20
Pintail	500	Nov. 15	Lesser Scaup	50	Oct. 31
Green-winged Teal	2,000	Oct. 31	Bufflehead	150	Oct. 20
Blue-winged Teal	2,000	Sept. 30	Ruddy Duck	200	Oct. 20
Am. Wigeon	8,000	Sept. 30	Hooded Merganser	150	Sept. 30
N. Shoveler	1,800	Oct. 20	Com. Merganser	150	Nov. 20
Wood Duck	2,000	Sept. 30			

Redhead: arr Penn Yan Oct. 13. Ring-necked Duck: arr Penn Yan Nov. 6. Bufflehead: 5 Elmira Nov. 12. Oldsquaw: 2 Branchport Nov. 12. White-winged Scoter: 30 Branchport for 2 hours; Cay L Nov. 14. Surf Scoter: male Sheldrake Oct. 29; female Aurora Nov. 13. Hooded Merganser: 14 Tyrone Nov. 14. Com. Merganser: 1 Elmira Nov. 12-22; 10 Waneta L Nov. 14.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 35 south of Elmira drying their wings after all night rain Sept. 17 (Johnston *fide* MW). Goshawk: immature Montour Falls Nov. 14 thru (JB). Sharp-shinned: 1 around feeders Clyde Nov. 17. Cooper's: 1 around Guthrie feeder Penn Yan; 1 Ithaca Nov. 28. Red-shouldered: 1 Canoga Sept. 10; 1 Ithaca Nov. 14. Broad-winged: 2 Ithaca Sept. 11 (Confer). Rough-legged: 1 dark phase Waterloo Oct. 7; 4 reports from Yates Co (ML). Bald Eagle: 1 immature bird with no wing markings was at MNWR along with one of the two raised there last year and the five raised this year. Marsh Hawk: singles at MNWR; many at Penn Yan (ML). Osprey: 1 MNWR Sept.

Both Virginia and Sora Rails were in normal numbers at MNWR. Common Gallinule: 1 MNWR Oct. 25 late (WB). Am. Coot: max 8,500 MNWR Nov. 10 Refuge personnel count. Semipalmated Plover: max 6 MNWR Sept. 13; dep Sept. 19. Killdeer: max 46 Waterloo dump Sept. 20. Am. Golden Plover: 1 MNWR Sept. 13. Am. Woodcock: 1 Ithaca Nov. 22. Com. Snipe: MNWR max 9 Sept. 10 dep Sept. 13. Spotted Sandpiper: dep MNWR Sept. 2. Greater Yellowlegs: MNWR max 6 Sept. 13. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 12 MNWR Sept. 13. Pectoral Sandpiper: max MNWR 14 Sept. 13. Least Sandpiper: max 5 MNWR Sept. 10. Short-billed Dowitcher: max 15 MNWR Sept. 13. Long-billed Dowitcher: max 6 MNWR Sept. 19. Stilt Sandpiper: max 7 MNWR Sept. 13. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 6 MNWR Sept. 13.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Com. Nighthawk: 5 Elmira Sept. 28. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 12 at the rather late date of Oct. 6 feeding on Nicotiana in Elmira. Pileated Woodpecker: 1 Ithaca Sept. 11; 1 MNWR Nov. 25. Red-bellied Woodpecker: at 3 locations Schuyler Co. Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 at Clyde feeder Nov. 24 thru. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: reported thru the period at Penn Yan with 2 still at feeders Nov. 30.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 MNWR Sept. 2 (WB). Horned Lark: 100 Sen Co. Nov. 13 (BH). Tree Swallow: "hundreds" Reeder's Creek, Sen Co., Oct. 8. Rough-winged Swallow: 2 MNWR Sept. 10 only report. Purple Martin: dep Tyre Sept. 8. Black-capped Chickadee: big movement Reeder's Creek, Sen. Co., Oct. 2. Red-breasted Nuthatch: many in Yates Co. all thru the period; "very plentiful" Elmira; many at Union Springs Nov. 20. House Wren: 1 Sen Co. Oct. 2 late. Carolina Wren: 2 Reeder's Creek Oct. 8-9 only ones seen there all summer and fall; still found at 3 regular locations in Catherine Creek Valley (JB); 3 pairs Ithaca. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 1 MNWR Nov. 23 late. Mockingbird: 1 Clyde Oct. 17 and Nov. 11; 1 Sen Co. Sept. 18. Brown Thrasher: 1 Sen Co. Oct. 22 late. Am. Robin: large flocks Elmira Sept. 12 and Oct. 19. Eastern Bluebird: 5 reports of migrating birds from Ithaca, Elmira and Schuyler Co. Kinglets: both species scarce. Water

Pipit: reported from MNWR, Sen Co.; Ithaca and Elmira from Oct. 19-Nov. 13; max 50 Elmira Oct. 19. Cedar Waxwing: 400 Ithaca. Northern Shrike: singles at Aurora Oct. 3 and Nov. 21; 1 Penn Yan Oct.; 1 Clyde Nov. 6.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Very few sightings of species in either group. Among the vireos only the Red-eyed, Philadelphia (1 Penn Yan Sept.) and Warbling (1 singing Ithaca Sept. 11) were reported. Warblers: sightings of 16 species were reported including Black-and-white, Tennessee, Nashville, N. Parula, Magnolia, Cape May, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle), Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Ovenbird, Com. Yellowthroat, Wilson's and Am. Redstart. The TV tower kill at Elmira included all of these species plus eight others—Orange-crowned, Yellow, Black-throated Blue, N. Waterthrush, Connecticut, Mourning, Yellow-breasted Chat and Canada.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Rusty Blackbird: 1 Sept. 17 MNWR and from Oct. 19 on. Com. Grackle: 3,000 Elmira Nov. 8. BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: a bird feeding with cowbirds at Wilfred Howell's feeder in Elmira during snowstorm on Nov. 13 must be listed as possible due to lack of confirming details. Scarlet Tanager: singles Sept. 11 and 18 at Ithaca; 1 Sen Co. Sept. 18. Evening Grosbeak: many and widespread reports beginning with a single bird at Watkins Glen on Sept. 5 and continuing thru the period. Purple Finch: Ithaca Sept. 18; MNWR Oct. 19-26. House Finch: this species continues to spread its range and increase in numbers. In the Watkins Glen-Odessa area most feeders now are visited by House Finches. Pine Siskin: small flock Watkins Glen Oct. 20; Penn Yan Oct. 29. Am. Goldfinch: adult feeding young Ithaca Sept. 18. Red Crossbill: 1 Ithaca Nov. 3 (*Hove fide DM*). White-winged Crossbill: 3 Ithaca Nov. 5; 9 Nov. 13 Union Springs. Sparrows: Vesper: 5 Elmira Nov. 11 only report. Dark-eyed Junco (**OREGON SSP**): 1 Howard feeder Elmira Nov. 17-18. White-crowned: 1 Clyde Sept. 17 early. White-throated: arr Sen Co. Sept. 17 and Ithaca Sept. 18. Fox: 1 Watkins Glen marsh Nov. 6 and 10; 1 at feeder Ithaca 13 and 2 Nov. 27. Lincoln's: 1 Ithaca Sept. 15 (*Conifer*); 1 singing Elmira Oct. 11 (MW). Lapland Longspur: 2 Ithaca Nov. 5; 1 Aurora Nov. 13; 3 Sen Co. Nov. 13. Snow Bunting: 1 Watkins Glen Sept. 5 very early (JB); 30 Sen Co. Nov. 13; 3 large flocks Elmira Nov. 13.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

More rain fell in the Susquehanna Region during Sept. than in any previous month on record, and the rains continued well into Oct. An early snowfall Oct. 17 melted quickly and was followed by a rather unsettled period of two to three weeks that could be called nice weather only by comparison with what went before. The really fair days were too scattered for any one period to be convincingly labeled Indian Summer. Nov. was typically cold, wet and overcast until more lasting wintery conditions arrived for the last week.

For the first time, the results of the fall migration hawk count at Franklin Mountain, co-ordinated by Mike Bennett, were available in their entirety for use in this regional report. Observations were made for one to six hours on most days between Aug. 30 and Nov. 14. Not too surprisingly, the resulting species counts provide an entirely different picture of hawk migration in the region than the casual observations from other years.

A second special project, almost daily mist netting of small land birds for banding, was conducted just south and west of Binghamton by Harriet Marsi through Oct. 27. Combining species counts from that operation with those from a similar but less regular operation

conducted by Gail Corderman in Vestal, within 2 miles to the west, provides an interesting sampling of the migration. Banding totals indicate a migration peak Sept. 20-21, which correlates reasonably well with a large movement of Chipping and Field Sparrows noted at Delhi. On the other hand, a large movement of warblers noted at Crumhorn Mountain, east of Oneonta, Sept. 4, is not mirrored in the banding results at all.

The only real rarity for the period was the Golden Eagle included in the Franklin Mountain hawk watch totals.

Observers: Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin (C,JB); Jean Barnes; Jean & Mike Bennett; Reynolds Bennett (RB); F. Bookout; Salley Carey; Lynn Clark; Mildred Clark; V. Converse; Gail Corderman (GC); Anna & Marilyn Davis (A,MD); Louise & Warren Dean; Mary Dobinsky (MD); Sadie Dorber (SD); Don Erbe; A. Gallow (AG); A. Hayes; Claude Howard; Florence Linaberry; L. McDowell; Harriet Marsi (HM); Bud & Evelyn Mead; Robert Pantle (RP); Booth Perkins; Kay Perkins; Mary Sheffield (MS); E. B. & F. B. Vermilya; Lillian Warren; Elizabeth Washburn; Don Weber; Cora Wellman (CW); Kathryn Wilson (KW); Irene Wright (IW).

Abbreviations used: Bing—Binghamton; FM—Franklin Mountain.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 2 Pepacton Reservoir Oct. 25; Nov. 6 Oneonta Reservoir. Pied-billed Grebe: 1 Crumhorn Lake, east of Oneonta, Sept. 7; Oct. 22 Milford. Great Blue Heron: a confused immature was taken into custody near a bar and spent a late Aug. night in the Oneonta Police Headquarters—after being the object of some hilarity and receiving the nickname “Hubert,” it was released in more normal habitat; last report Oct. 27 Owego. Green Heron: only 3 Sept. reports, the latest Sept. 11. Common Egret: Sept. 22 and again Sept. 24, 1 at Laurens, near Oneonta. Mute Swan: 1 Portlandville Sept. 4 and 5 (IW). Canada Goose: first migrants Sept. 15 but peak numbers, in the thousands, Oct. 7; frequent reports throughout Oct. and to Nov. 25. Snow Goose: 75 Milford Nov. 6 (MD); 100-150 West Delhi Nov. 14 (AG); 11 Whitney Point Nov. 25 (A,MD). Mallard: numerous reports as usual. Black Duck: Nov. 5 Whitney Point (A,MD), the only fall report. Canvasback: 1 on a farm pond near Oneonta Nov. 12 (MD, KW), the only one. Bufflehead: 1 Oxford Nov. 5; 6 there Nov. 13 and 8 at Delhi Nov. 9, the highest counts of only 5 reports. Common Scoter: two flocks totalling 67 birds at Whitney Point Oct. 24 (MS); a very high count for this region. Hooded Merganser: Oct. 22 Owego (C,JB); 8 Whitney Point Nov. 25, the highest count. Common Merganser: 26 Bear Spring Mountain, in Delaware Co., Oct. 6, the first of several reports; early for region in those numbers.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: nine in Sept. and nine in Oct. at FM, the last Oct. 23; 12 Delhi Sept. 29 the highest daily count. Goshawk: two in Sept. and 16 in Oct. at FM, 4 max Oct. 13. Sharp-shinned Hawk: at FM 234 in Sept. and 241 in Oct.—30 or more 7 different days Sept. 15 to Oct. 12. Cooper’s Hawk: only four all fall at FM, three Sept. 3 and one Sept. 15; two perched Portlandville Sept. 11; two other reports. Red-tailed Hawk: at FM 46 in Sept. 1320 in Oct. and 34 in Nov.—275 highest count Oct. 23. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Crumhorn Sept. 4; at FM one on Oct. 5, one on Oct. 6 and two Oct. 14; no others. Broad-winged Hawk: at FM 1040 in Sept. and 23 in Oct.—331 the best daily count Sept. 15 and Oct. 23 the last date. **GOLDEN EAGLE:** one adult FM Oct. 27. Marsh Hawk: FM five in Sept. two in Oct. and one in Nov. Osprey: 16 in Sept. and six in Oct. at FM—never more than two in a day and Oct. 15, the last date. Am. Kestrel: 19 in Sept. and 16 in Oct. FM, but they evidently do not particularly favor that location as there was no dearth of them in other areas. Turkey: six at Big Island near Oneonta Sept. 26; also at Kirkwood in the Bing. area and in the Owego area. Killdeer: six still at Oxford Nov. 25. Black-bellied Plover: Oct. 20 Mirror Lake, near Owego, (C,JB), no details. Pectoral Sandpiper: Sept. 25 Owego (J,CB). Herring Gull: 20 Otsego Lake Sept. 25, first of the season.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Sept. 15 Crumhorn, the only fall record. Black-billed Cuckoo: Sept. 6 Owego, the only fall record. Screech Owl: five reports.

Long-eared Owl: Nov. 23, heard at Vestal (GC). Chimney Swift: Sept. 16 Chenango Forks, last date. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Oct. 4 Owego, last date. Pileated Woodpecker: 12 reports in Sept. and Oct. Red-headed Woodpecker: Sept. 15 Owego.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: a late report Sept. 20 Owego. Great Crested Flycatcher: one banded Sept. 25 Vestal. Eastern Phoebe: Oct. 9 Oneonta, last date. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 10 banded in Bing. and Vestal, the last Sept. 27. Acadian Flycatcher: Sept. 5 Candor (RP); one each Sept. 8 and 20 (HM); all banded birds, identified by measurements. Least Flycatcher: last date Sept. 20 Owego. Eastern Wood Pewee: last date Sept. 25 Vestal (GC), banded. Olive-sided Flycatcher: Sept. 4 Crumhorn, the only report. Tree Swallow: 8-10 still at FM Oct. 12. Bank Swallow: Sept. 25 Owego. Rough-winged Swallow: Oct. 2 Owego, very late. Barn Swallow: Sept. 25 Owego. Purple Martin: Sept. 25 Owego. Red-breasted Nuthatch: frequent reports of one or two birds all fall, more than usual in the region. Carolina Wren: reported from Owego area, one site near Bing. and Delhi. Mockingbird: reports from two sites Endwell, one Delhi, two Oneonta and one Owego. Gray Catbird: 91 banded Bing. during Sept. and to Oct. 7—one banded Vestal Center Nov. 23 (SD), the only later report. Brown Thrasher: 1 Endwell Nov. 21, the only report after Oct. 1. Hermit Thrush: 19 banded Bing. Oct. 4 to 22. Swainson's Thrush: 50 banded Bing. Sept. 8 to Oct. 13. Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 Sept. 25 Vestal; 4 to Oct. 12 Bing. Veery: last date Sept. 9 Candor. Golden-crowned Kinglet: first date Sept. 11 Crumhorn. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: four Oneonta Sept. 11 to Bing. Oct. 27; frequent reports between those dates. Water Pipit: nine Milford Oct. 22 (MD). Cedar Waxwing: large numbers thru Sept., "at least 300 Oct. 3 at Emmons, near Oneonta, feeding in cherry trees, dogwood, sumac, willows . . ."; smaller numbers thru Oct., but almost none in Nov. Northern Shrike: four reports, the first Nov. 6 Milford.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: at Chenango Forks until Sept. 16. Solitary Vireo: 15 Crumhorn Sept. 4; Oct. 9 Emmons. Red-eyed Vireo: 113 banded Bing. in Sept., 57 of those Sept. 19 to 21; last date Oct. 4. Philadelphia Vireo: six banded from Sept. 6 to Oct. 5 (HM). Warbling Vireo: 2 Crumhorn Mountain Oct. 8, the last. Blue-winged Warbler: one banded Sept. 2 Bing., last date. Tennessee Warbler: 32 banded Vestal Sept. and 28 banded Bing. by Oct. 7, 31 of the total Sept. 20; 20 Crumhorn Sept. 4. Nashville Warbler: last Oct. 17. No. Parula: one Crumhorn Sept. 4 (MD,CW,KW), only the second report for the year in the region. Yellow Warbler: Sept. 19 Delhi, last. Magnolia Warbler: 70 banded Sept. Bing. and Vestal combined, 32 of those Sept. 20; one Bing. Oct. 16 the last and only Oct. record. Cape May Warbler: 83 banded Bing.-Vestal in Sept., 36 of them Sept. 2 to 8 and 21 of them Sept. 19 to 21; nine Crumhorn Sept. 4; last Oct. 5. Black-throated Blue Warbler: four Crumhorn Sept. 4; five banded Vestal to Sept. 25, last date; four banded Bing. Yellow-rumped Warbler: Sept. 5 Oneonta, first fall date, to Oct. 22; 30 Delhi Sept. 19 and 72 Milford Oct. 1 the best counts. Black-throated Green Warbler: 25 Crumhorn Sept. 4; 16 banded Bing.-Vestal to Oct. 4. Blackburnian Warbler: only three Sept. reports, last Sept. 24 Vestal banded. Chestnut-sided Warbler: four banded Bing.-Vestal Sept. 20 the last date and highest count of six reports. Bay-breasted Warbler: six banded Bing. to Sept. 21; 18 banded Vestal to Oct. 4; best dates six at Crumhorn Sept. 4 and six banded Sept. 20. Blackpoll Warbler: Sept. 4 to Sept. 25, 10 banded Bing.-Vestal and two other reports. Palm Warbler: Sept. 4 Crumhorn and Sept. 18 Owego, the only reports in the region this year. Ovenbird: 24 banded Bing.-Vestal, 10 Sept. 20 and 21; Oct. 10 Kirkwood, last date. Northern Waterthrush: 4 reports, 1 bird each, to Sept. 27. Connecticut Warbler: Sept. 28 and Oct. 17 Bing. (HM), both banded. Mourning Warbler: two banded Sept. 20 and 21 Bing. Common Yellowthroat: 17 of the 33 banded were banded Sept. 20 and 21; 25 Crumhorn Sept. 4; two Portlandville Oct. 1 last date. Wilson's Warbler: six banded Bing.-Vestal; only two other reports, the last Sept. 29 Owego. Canada Warbler: four banded Bing., the last Sept. 22. Am. Redstart: six banded Bing.-Vestal, last Sept. 28.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Northern Oriole: one Delhi, Nov. 19 to 29—"has injured

wing—putting out feed.” Scarlet Tanager: 43 counted at Maryland, east of Oneonta, Sept. 2 to Oct. 5; 10 banded Bing.-Vestal; last Oct. 7 Delhi. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Oct. 7 Delhi. Evening Grosbeak: Sept. 13 Oneonta, first date; several large flocks in Oct. and seen daily all of Nov. Purple Finch: 40 banded in Sept. and nine in Oct. Bing.-Vestal; few after Oct. 12 and only two Nov. reports. House Finch: regular reports Endwell, Vestal, Owego and Oneonta; one Delhi Nov. 1. Pine Grosbeak: three FM Nov. 6, the only ones. Common Redpoll: Nov. 24, Ingraham Hill, south of Bing, the only report. Pine Siskin: Oct. 9 Oneonta; next report Nov. 6 Endwell and six later reports. Am. Goldfinch: present all period, but, except for three reports of flocks of 40 or more, numbers much below recent years. Rufous-sided Towhee: last Oct. 9. Grasshopper Sparrow: Sept. 8 Owego (RB), no others. Dark-eyed Junco: common after Oct. 4. Tree Sparrow: Oct. 21 Delhi, first. Chipping Sparrow: one Delhi Nov. 27, the only report after Oct. 19; “100s” Sept. 17 Delhi. Field Sparrow: “100s” Sept. 17 Delhi. White-crowned Sparrow: Oct. 1 to Oct. 20, plus one Delhi Nov. 11. White-throated Sparrow: common after Oct. 4; still regular at several Triple Cities feeders at the end of the period. Fox Sparrow: four banded Oct. 22 Bing., first date. Lincoln’s Sparrow: one Bing. and one Vestal banded Oct. 4; the only ones. Song Sparrow: noticeably less common than in previous years. Snow Bunting: 11 Maryland Nov. 1, the only report.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL DeBENEDICTIS

The fall season began under mild conditions. Low water levels left marshes and mudflats in excellent conditions for shorebirds. Unfortunately, cool temperatures and heavy rain in the second half of September and early October did more than just dampen spirits. Most shorebird localities were inundated, resulting in a miserable showing of late-season shorebirds, and perhaps indirectly leading to low numbers of waterfowl. During late September, heavy movements of nocturnal migrants were evident by overhead *seeps* and *chips* almost nightly. Unfortunately, no data sufficient to delimit dates of migratory waves were submitted; perusal of peak dates will suggest some such periods. Perhaps correlated with this flight period are the generally early departure dates for many species, particularly insectivorous passersines. Although dry, mild conditions again prevailed until the last week of November, by mid-October the sparsity of bird populations left the birding scene reminiscent of early winter, relieved mainly by the anticipated vanguard of a good winter finch flight. Although berry crops were generally plentiful, cone crops were nonexistent except on occasional spruce plantings; it will be interesting to see what finches remain through the winter.

No clear population trends were evident. Waterbirds were generally scarce, warblers departed early after an unexceptional passage, and the various field sparrows remained in very low numbers. On the positive side was a good flight of cormorants and of jaegers (though perhaps only reflecting increasingly intensive observations from Derby Hill). Increasing coverage of the Oneida hawk lookout near Vernon produced good numbers of raptors, muted only by the obvious conclusion that Broad-winged Hawks seem to prefer some other route southward. The only extreme rarity reported was LONG-TAILED JAEGER, but a good collection of rarer shorebirds, King Eider, Black-legged Kittiwake, Bohemian Waxwing, Connecticut Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Dickcissel added spice to a basically average fall migration.

Because the primary value of most of the records received is the comparative dates of arrival, maxima and departure, localities have generally been omitted; as usual the vast majority are from along Lake Ontario. Observations for which no observer is listed should be credited to F. G. Scheider; observations from the Oneida hawk lookout near Vernon were compiled by B. and S. Peebles. Abbreviations: arr—arrival; DH—Derby Hill; EOP—end of period; ESOL—east shore Oneida Lake; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral; max—maximum; mob—multiple observers; OHL—Oneida hawk lookout; SP—Sandy Pond. Observers: D. W. Ackley, K. & S. Blackshaw, G. & M. Church, K. Coyle, D. W. Crumb, P. DeBenedictis, B. & D. DeSimone, B. & S. Peebles, M. S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, G. A. Smith, M. Stooks, E. VanDresar, R. & S. White.

LOONS—DUCKS: All loon and grebe species with low maxima; only 2 Red-throated Loons (late Nov.) and 4 Red-necked Grebes (29 Oct.-6 Nov.) were reported—sparse. Pied-billed Grebe continued very scarce, max. 8 on 18 Sept. Double-crested Cormorant: max 41 SP, 4 Sept. (high), last 30 Oct., all LOL. Green Heron: last 25 Sept. Only 3 Black-crowned Night Herons reported LOL, 22-25 Sept. Am. Bittern: last 6 Oct. Canada Goose: fall influx began late Sept., max 4500 LOL on 7 Oct.; 1720 reported from OHL, max 780 on 17 Oct. Brant: arr. DH on 15 Oct. 780 on 17 Oct. (GAS), max 5600 on 5 Nov., stragglers to EOP. Snow Goose: 450± 50 Delta Lake 10 Nov. departed 18 Nov. (OHL); 16 (3 Blues) near Clinton 20 Nov. (DeSimones); an impressive showing for a species sometimes missed in the fall. Dabblers: generally low maxima (e.g., Pintail, 200 on 22 Oct.; Am. Wigeon, 100 on 7 Oct.), and few stragglers to EOP. Diving ducks showed typical arrival dates but generally low maxima, except Greater Scaup—i.e., Redhead, '74 on 24 Nov. (MSR); Canvasback, 27 on 11 Nov.; Greater Scaup, 12,000 DH on 6 Nov., Lesser Scaup, 66 on 23 Nov. (G&MC); most species in low numbers at EOP. Sea ducks: ditto; maxima: C. Goldeneye, 525 on 20 Nov.; Bufflehead, 70 on 6 Nov.; Oldsquaw, 265 on 19 Nov. (GAS); White-winged Scoter, 550 on 15 Oct.; Surf Scoter, 200 on 15 Oct.; Black Scoter, 140 on 12 Oct. (GAS). King Eider: singles DH, 30 Oct., 19-20 Nov. Ruddy Duck: large concentration on Beaver Lake peaked at 140, 17-20 Nov. (mob). Mergansers: numbers as for diving ducks; e.g., Red-breasted Merganser, max. only 6200 on 6 Nov.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: A total of 97 hrs. observation on 31 days at OHL produced 2401 raptors, about 1/3 Sharp-shinned; 1/3 Broad-wings, 1/5 Red-tails. Turkey Vulture: max and last, 6 on 13 Oct. Goshawk: only 3 reported, none OHL. Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 90 DH, 24 Sept., and 286 OHL, 27 Sept. Cooper's Hawk: max 16 OHL, 4 Oct., only 1-2/day elsewhere. Red-tailed Hawk: max 60 DH, 9 Sept. (GAS); 31 DH, 13 Oct.; and 161 OHL, 20 Oct. Red-shouldered Hawk: max 28 OHL, 20 Oct.; last there on 29 Oct. Broad-winged Hawk: max 75 DH, 24 Sept. (GAS); and 174 OHL, 27 Sept.; last 4 Oct. (4, OHL). Rough-legged Hawk: arr 18 Oct., only 2-3/day thereafter. Marsh Hawk: max 13 SP, 6 Nov. and 12 OHL, 20 Oct. Osprey: max 8 SP, 25 Sept.; and 5 OHL, 27 Sept.; last 5 Nov. No eagles reported. Merlin: 5 reported, 22 Sept. to 20 Oct. Am. Kestrel: max 18 SP, 25 Sept.; and 23 OHL, 27 Sept. Peregrine Falcon: 1, DH, 17 Oct. (GAS). Sora unreported, and no Virginia Rail or C. Gallinule after late Sept. Am. Coot: max 70's Beaver Lake, Oct. (mob). Semipalmated Plover: last 3 Nov. Killdeer: max 90 on 19 Sept. Am. Golden Plover: arr 1 Sept. (3), max 28 on 22 Sept., last 5 Nov.; most LOL. Black-bellied Plover: max 7 mid-Oct.; last 6 Nov. Ruddy Turnstone: only 8 reported, last 29 Sept. (early!), most ESOL. Hudsonian Godwit: singles ESOL 21 Oct. and 31 Oct.-6 Nov. (DKA, mob). Upland Sandpiper: last 5 Sept. Spotted Sandpiper: last 6 Oct. Solitary Sandpiper: last 2 Oct. Greater Yellowlegs: last 9 Nov. (3). Lesser Yellowlegs: last 6 Nov. (Coyle). C. Snipe: max 71, Clay Swamp, 31 Oct. Short-billed Dowitcher: only 3 reported, last 5 Sept. (early!). Red Knot: 4 reported, last 6 Oct. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 26 on 16 Sept.; last 19 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: only 5 reported, last 6 Nov. Baird's Sandpiper: only 2 (low!) reported, last 12 Sept. (early!). Least Sandpiper: departed early Oct., then 1 straggler SP on 6 Nov. Purple Sandpiper: singles Fair Haven 31 Oct. and 17 Nov. Dunlin: arr 25 Sept. max 22 (low!) 17 Oct., last 24 Nov. (3 USR). Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 7 Oct. Western Sandpiper: 1-2 ESOL, 14-16

Sept. (mob). Sanderling: max 40, 16 Sept.; last 3 SP and 1 Shackleton Pt., Oneida Lake (MSR) on 11 Nov. Stilt Sandpiper: last 14 Sept. (Coyle, early!). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 2 SP, 4 Sept.; and 1 ESOL 15-16 Sept. (DKA). Northern and Wilson's Phalarope: none! Red Phalarope: 1-2 ESOL, 29 Sept. to 1 Oct. (mob; photo'd DLC), 1, Pleasant Point, 230 at Kidneys (*fide* MSR), 2-3 SP, 17-25 Nov. (mob). Parasitic Jaeger: 66 reported from DH between 22 Aug. and 11 Nov., max 29 on 3 Sept. (GAS). LONG-TAILED JAEGER: adult DH 3 Sept. (see "Notes and Observations," this issue by GAS). Glaucous Gull: 1 on 13 Oct. was only report. Iceland Gull: arr. 19 Nov.; 2 others reported. Black-legged Kittiwake: lone immatures SP on 6 Oct. (early) and 19 Nov. Common Tern: last DH on 22 Oct. Forster's Tern: 2 at SP on 11 Sept. (MSR). Caspian Tern: last on 19 Sept. (4).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: only 3 reported, last 25 Sept.; no Yellow-billed. The only scarcer owls reported were 1 Long-eared, Clinton, 22 Nov. (DeSimones) and 2 Short-eared, LOL in Oct. A Whip-poor-will was noted at a breeding site as late as 8 Sept. (B&SP). C. Nighthawk: last in Syracuse 4 Oct. (PDeB). Chimney Swift: last 29 Sept. Ruby-throated Hummingbird appeared at the VanDresar feeder in Holland Patent 7 Nov. Red-bellied Woodpecker showed continued increase, with good numbers in traditional areas and new reporting localities as far east as Chittenango (*fide* MSR). Only single Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 31 on 22 Sept., last 15 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Departure dates for flycatchers: E. Kingbird, 19 Sept.; Great Crested, 20 Sept.; E. Phoebe, 21 Oct. (Coyle); Yellow-bellied, 25 Sept.; "Traill's," 22 Sept.; Least, 22 Sept.; E. Wood Pewee, 6 Oct.; Olive-sided, 24 Sept. Late fall maxima and departure dates of swallows were: Tree, max 7000 on 22 Sept., last 8 on 15 Oct. (MSR); Bank, max and last 200 on 5 Sept.; Barn, max 300 on 4 Sept., last on 8 Oct.; Cliff, last 5 on 25 Sept.; Purple Martin, last 2 on 25 Sept. Blue Jay, light flight; max 250 DH on 19 Sept. and 234 OHL on 27 Sept.; 535 noted from OHL for season. C. Crow: LOL max 3500 on 13 Oct., 3000 on 20 Oct., 2500 on 29 Oct. Black-capped Chickadee: evidently a good flight, max at DH 300 on 29 Oct. (GAS) and 400 on 30 Oct. Red-breasted Nuthatch: light flight, max 26 on 4 Sept. House Wren: last 6 on 29 Sept. Winter Wren: arr 17 Sept. (2), max 7 on 17 Oct., last 27 Oct. for a species that often overwinters. Carolina Wren: only 1 reported, SP, 4-20 Sept. Long-billed Marsh Wren: last 21 Oct. Short-billed Marsh Wren: one in Hannibal Twnspl 7 Oct. Gray Catbird: last substantiated on 8 Oct., reputed later. Brown Thrasher: last on 21 Oct. Am. Robin: no significant incursion, max 110 on 6 Nov. Wood Thrush: last on 23 Sept. (MSR). Hermit Thrush: arr 19 Sept., max 48 on 7 Oct. Swainson's Thrush: max 34 on 18 Sept., last 7 Oct. Gray-cheeked Thrush: only 5 reported, mid-Sept. Veery: last 23 Sept. (MSR). E. Bluebird: only 4 reported, last 20 Nov., Fair Haven. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last 18 Sept. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 18 Sept., max only 25 on 21 Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 17 Sept., max only 45 on 7 Oct., last 9 Nov. (MSR). Water Pipit: arr 17 Sept. (30), max 110 on 6 Nov., last 25 Nov. (MSR). Bohemian Waxwing: 3-4 with Cedars on Syracuse Univ. campus (L. L. Wolf, *fide* PDeB) 14 Nov., not seen later. N. Shrike: arr 20 Oct.; only 1-3/day thereafter but reported by almost all observers, so evidently a good flight.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Daily maxima for this group were consistently low, and departure dates tended to be quite early. Only departure dates are given in the following account unless specifically noted otherwise. Vireos: Yellow-throated, 22 Sept.; Solitary, 14 Oct. (1 each by Coyle and DeSimone); Red-eyed, 5 Oct. (MSR); Philadelphia, max 12 on 18 Sept., last 9 on 22 Sept.; Warbling, 7 Oct. Warblers: Black-and-white, 25 Sept. (3); Blue-winged, only report 1 Sept.; Golden-winged, 5 Sept.; Tennessee, 18 Oct.; Orange-crowned, arr 9 Sept., last and max 3 on 13 Oct.; Nashville, 29 Oct. (late); N. Parula, 11 Oct.; Yellow, 29 Sept.; Magnolia, 29 Sept. (3); Cape May, 29 Sept. (3); Black-throated Blue, 28 Sept.; Myrtle, max 305 on 22 Sept., last 9 Nov.; Black-throated Green, max 120 on 22 Sept., last 18 Oct.; Blackburnian: 25 Sept. (3); Chestnut-sided, 25 Sept. (3); Bay-breasted, 25 Sept.;

Blackpoll, max 32 on 18 Sept. last 7 on 25 Sept.; Pine, 1 report 17 Sept.; Palm, 7 reported, 17 Sept.-7 Oct. (4); Ovenbird, 25 Sept. (3 localities); N. Waterthrush, 5 Sept.; Mourning, 5 Sept.; Connecticut, singles, Pompey late Sept. (DWC), Fair Haven, 25 Sept.; C. Yellow-throat, 30 Oct.; Hooded, 5 Sept. (3); Wilson's, 25 Sept.; Canada, 18 Sept.; Am. Redstart, 25 Sept. (4).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: last 19 Sept. Redwinged Blackbird: first significant flight along LOL 11 Oct. (6000,GAS), "millions!" (with Grackles) in an almost overwhelming exodus on 20 Oct., yet still 16,000 on 29 Oct. and 7000 on 6 Nov. Yellow-headed Blackbird: 2 SP on 4 Sept. are first local fall record. Northern Oriole: last 2 on 5 Sept. Rusty Blackbird: arr 22 Sept., max 700 on 29 Sept., singles only after 10 Nov. C. Grackle: "millions" with Redwinged Blackbirds on 20 Oct., 3000 LOL 29 Oct., virtually absent after 9 Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 300 on 7 Oct. Scarlet Tanager: last 7 Oct. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last 7 Oct. Indigo Bunting: last 25 Sept. Dickcissel: immature in Syracuse after 26 Nov. (photo'd PDeB). Evening Grosbeak: arr 24 Sept., abundant by early Nov., when feeder survey (*fide* MSR) gave second highest total ever for Nov. Purple Finch: last 31 Oct. House Finch: continued expansion in Syracuse area, reported Clay, New York Mills, and Ilion in November. Pine Grosbeak: arr 29 Oct. (2 localities), major incursion suggested by counts of 20-30/day by EOP. C. Redpoll: no details for late Sept. reports, none Oct., then 149 on 19 Nov. Pine Siskin: arr 25 Sept. (MSR), max 60 on 29 Oct. Am. Goldfinch: max 350 LOL on 29 Oct. Red Crossbill: only a few, Pompey twnshp, in Nov. (DWC). White-winged Crossbill: arr 30 Oct., occasional to EOP. Rufous-sided Towhee: last 21 Oct. Savanna Sparrow: only 1-6/day, last 3 Nov. Vesper Sparrow: 15 Holland Patent 17 Oct. (VanDresar) was only respectable count. Dark-eyed Junco: arr 18 Sept., max 380 on 11 Oct. Tree Sparrow: arr. 19 Oct., max 75 on 6 Nov. Chipping Sparrow: max 110 on 16 Sept., last 30 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: arr 18 Sept., max 114 on 7 Oct., last 2 on 21 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: max 650 on 7 Oct. Fox Sparrow: 1-7/day between 7 and 17 Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 4 Sept., max 9 on 7 Oct., last 21 Oct. Song Sparrow: max 300 on 7 Oct. Lapland Longspur: 1-4 after 13 Oct. Snow Bunting: arr 15 Oct. to counts of 300 by 30 Oct. (MSR) and 15 Nov. (Stooks).

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

Fall of 1977 can best be described as *very, very* wet. Temperatures ranged from 78° F (25° C) to 30° F (-1° C). Winter held off for most of the period and November was warmer than usual with Lake Ontario harbors staying open.

Indications for a winter finch invasion and arctic raptors came early. Waterfowl were encouraging, shorebirds could have been better and rarities made a good showing.

Rarities for the period were Merlin; Am. Golden Plover; Baird's Sandpiper; Little Gull; Black-legged Kittiwake; Gray Jay; and Common Raven. The weather didn't cooperate but the birds did and a few wet hours afield were rewarding.

Contributors: Doug Allen; John Belknap; Burrell Buffington; Lee B. Chamberlaine (LBC); Kenneth L. Crowell (KLC); Charles Devan; Genesee Ornithological Society (GOS); Richard Guthrie; Wm. Pesold; Gerry A. Smith (GAS); Joe A. VanRiet (JAV); Robert C. and June Walker (RCW); Louis Wallace.

Abbreviations: ED—Eldorado Shores; PP—Pillar Point; RMPD—Robt. Moses Power Dam; RMSP—Robt. Moses State Park; WHWMA—Wilson Hill WMA.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: 4 WHWMA Oct. 13; 11 PP-Chaumont Nov. 9; good numbers. Horned Grebe: 35 PP-Chaumont Nov. 9; 1 WHWMA Nov. 19-25. Double-crested Cormorant: 12 ED Sept. 19 (RCW). Great Blue Heron: 2 Waddington Oct. 14; 1 Sherwins Bay Nov. 9. Canada Goose: heavy migration Oct. 7; 700 WHWMA Nov. 20. Brant: Oct. 13 (GAS) 7 Waddington-WHWMA; 52 Woodhull Lake Herkimer Co. Nov. 4-7 (B. Buffington). Snow Goose: 50+ Upper & Lower Lakes WMA Oct. 15 (C. Devan); 200+ Lowville Nov. 8 (B. Buffington); Blue morph 5 Carthage Nov. 8; 9 Blue morph Hanawa Falls Nov. 8 (KLC). Mallard: just as many as ever. Black Duck: about same as last year. Mallard X Black hybrid: up at WHWMA. Gadwall: 100 WHWMA vicinity Oct. 13; 67 Coles Crk-WHWMA Oct. 14 both (GAS). Pintail: not as many as last year (LBC). Green-winged Teal: up slightly from previous years (LBC); Blue-winged Teal: 20 ED Sept. 9. Am. Wigeon: 75 Waddington-WHWMA Oct. 13; 350 Coles Crk-WHWMA Oct. 14 (GAS). No. Shoveler: more than previous year Perch River WMA. Wood Duck: about normal numbers. Redhead: 5 Waddington-WHWMA Oct. 13; 80 Coles Crk-WHWMA Oct. 14; up at WHWMA; 94 RMPD pond Nov. 20. Ring-necked Duck: 160 RMPD pond Nov. 20. Canvasback: 6 WHWMA Oct. 29; 200 Feather Bed Shoal-Carlton Isl Nov. 8 (C. Devan). Greater Scaup: 3000+ the Isthmus lakeside Nov. 8; 4000+ Featherbed Shoal-Carlton Is. (C. Devan). Lesser Scaup: 2 WHWMA Oct. 14 (GAS). Common Goldeneye: 6 WHWMA Oct. 29. Bufflehead: 43 PP-Chaumont Nov. 9. White-winged Scoter: 3 RMPD Oct. 15; 6 Stony Pt. Oct. 24. Ruddy Duck: 9 WHWMA Sept. 23-Nov. 20 (JAV); 3 males WHWMA Oct. 14 (GAS). Hooded Merganser: 36 Muskalonge Crk Nov. 9 (RCW); 75 Nov. 20 (JAV). Com. Merganser: 200 RMPD Oct. 27; 4000+ RMPD end of period (JAV). Red-breasted Merganser: 4 PP-Chaumont Nov. 9; 4 Nov. 24.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 1 No. Branch Sandy Crk (a salmon stream) Sept. 26; 1 Little Stony Crk Sept. 27; numbers up (J. Belknap). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Dry Hill Sept. 20 (RCW). Cooper's Hawk: 1 Stony Crk Rd (GOS). Red-tailed Hawk: more than last fall; 16 Sulphur Springs to Chaumont Nov. 9. Rough-legged Hawk: more than last year—more dark phase. Marsh Hawk: seems to be some increase over previous two years; 2 Henderson Oct. 6; 2 Coles Crk-RMSP Oct. 14; 2 Chaumont Nov. 9. Osprey: 1 No. Branch Sandy Crk (salmon stream) Sept. 26. **MERLIN:** 1 ED Sept. 5 (Wm. Pesold). Am. Kestrel: 20+ Tug Hill plateau Sept. 24; 5 PP-Chaumont Nov. 9. Ruffed Grouse: down somewhat from last year. Gray Partridge: 1 covey (11 birds) RMSP Nov. 14. Semipalmated Plover: 15 ED Sept. 9; 2 ED Sept. 10; 1 ED Sept. 19. Killdeer: last Oct. 14. **AM. GOLDEN PLOVER:** 1 ED Sept. 10 (RCW). Black-bellied Plover: 6 ED Sept. 9; 2 ED Sept. 10; 1 ED Sept. 19. Ruddy Turnstone: 5 ED Sept. 9; 6 ED Sept. 10. **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** 1 ED Sept. 10 (RCW). Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 ED Sept. 9 (RCW). Sanderling: 14 ED Sept. 9; 60 ED Sept. 10; 3 ED Sept. 19. Glaucous Gull: 1 immature RMPD Nov. 18 (JAV). Iceland Gull: 1 immature RMPD Nov. 24 (JAV). Great Black-backed Gull: 1 ED Sept. 10; 7 ED Sept. 19; 3 Coles Crk-WHWMA Oct. 14; 1 Henderson Hbr Oct. 29; 20 Nov. 22 RMPD. Herring Gull: 100 Nov. 22. Ring-billed Gull: 3000+ Nov. 22 (JAV). Bonaparte's Gull: 3 ED Sept. 19; 300 RMPD Sept. 27; 102 RMSP-RMPD Oct. 13; 30 RMPD Nov. 25. **LITTLE GULL:** 1 adult RMPD Oct. 14-19 (GAS & JAV). **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** 1 immature RMPD Nov. 15-25 (Doug Allen & JAV). Caspian Tern: 1 ED Sept. 10; 1 ED Sept. 19.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: numbers down. Snowy Owl: none reported. Belted Kingfisher: 1 PP Nov. 9. Com. Flicker: 2 PP-Chaumont Nov. 9—late (RCW). Pileated: 2 Raymondville Nov. 20. Hairy: still down (LBC). Downy: a little improved—still down (LBC).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Horned Lark: Flocks overhead Oct. 25 and Oct. 30; no other reports. **GRAY JAY:** 4 Buck Pond, Herkimer Co. Nov. 23 come to hand for food (M. C. Virkler);—seldom reported. Blue Jay: numbers in Henderson area seem way up—14 in feeder at one time, normally 3 to 5 at any one time (LBC). **COMMON RAVEN:** 1 Pierce-

field Sept. 11. (KLC); 2 Childwold area(Town of Piercefield) Nov. 14 (L. Wallace); good observations in a basically unbirded portion of region. Com. Crow: no mass migration in Oct.-Nov. as in past years (LBC)-why? White-breasted Nuthatch: down? Brown Creeper: 1 Oct. 14. Winter Wren: 1 ED Sept. 10 (GOS). Am. Robin: heavy movement through area from Sept. 1 to Sept. 8-80 in yard at one time Sept. 8 (LBC); last Nov. 30. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 3 Oct. 13; 5 RMSP-RMPD Oct. 13. Water Pipit: 10 Coles Crk-WHWMA Oct. 14 (GAS). No. Shrike: 1st Harrisville Oct. 27-banded (R. Guthrie), not as many in Jefferson Co. as usual.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: 7 Coles Crk-WHWMA Oct. 14; last Pierrepont Nov. 14 (KLC).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: E. Meadowlark: 16 RMSP Oct. 14; 2 Lowville Nov. 29. Red-winged Blackbird: 45 Waddington Oct. 14; 25 So. Grass River vicinity, Oct. 14. Cardinal: Pierrepont Nov. 13 new species for town (KLC). Evening Grosbeak: first 7 Henderson Sept. 7; 5+ Oct. 5; 60+ every day Dry Hill end of Oct. thru. Purple Finch: 4 Henderson Oct. 8. Pine Grosbeak: 9 Fargo Nov. 13 early (LBC). Com. Redpoll: 4 RMSP Nov. 28. Pine Siskin: first heard in Sept.; 10+ Henderson Hbr Oct. 5; 5 Fargo Oct. 23; 40 Louisville Oct. 22. Am. Goldfinch: 7 Waddington-So. Grass River Oct. 14. White-winged Crossbill: Canton Nov. 2 (KLC). Dark-eyed Junco: heavy movement Henderson Oct. 2-8 (LBC); 130 RMSP-RMPD Oct. 13; 60 RMSP Oct. 14. Tree Sparrow: first WHWMA Oct. 29 (JAV). Field Sparrow: 1 RMSP Oct. 13 (GAS). White-crowned Sparrow: first Henderson Oct. 2; last Oct. 8 (LBC). White-throated Sparrow: 25 Waddington-RMPD Oct. 13; 16 Waddington-So. Grass River Oct. 14. Fox Sparrow: 1 ED Sept. 10 (GOS). Song Sparrow: 23 Waddington-So. Grass River Oct. 14. Snow Bunting: first—large flocks Henderson Oct. 30.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

Fall in the North Country was kinder than last year although we had rain almost every day during September and well into October, which helped keep bird people inside. At least we did not begin winter on October 10, as happened last year. October 15-November 15 was normal, with decent weather much of the time for both birds and birders.

People have been climbing mountains to watch for hawks this fall. In most cases, a day of watching turns up about 15-30 individual raptors so it is a rewarding pastime. Although the Champlain Valley seems best, there seems to be a widespread movement with hawks passing Whiteface and Franklin Falls Flow as well as the other inland places. A great many birds seem to be passing over a large land area so they are not concentrated or funneled into one outstanding viewing spot. Charcie Delehanty had 22 hawks pass over her Tupper Lake house in two hours. It is worth keeping a vigil on a pleasant fall day.

This seems to be a reasonable finch year in spite of the poor cone crop. There have been lots of Pine Grosbeaks. The many flocks of redpolls and Pine Siskins all seemed to be doing some serious traveling. Perhaps birders farther south will have them linger.

A pair of Hudsonian Godwits, carefully identified, was a great find for the Region. Some other interesting migrants were two Northern Phalaropes within the Adirondack Park, two Connecticut Warblers and an Orange-crowned Warbler.

Observers: GC—Geoffrey Carleton; DC—Dean Cook; GD—Granger Davenport; B&DS—Bruno & Dee DeSimone; BF—Bill Frenette; HiPkAud—High Peaks Audubon Society; MK—Marguerite Kingsbury; DN—Dan Nickerson; GM—George Martin; RMc—Robert McKinney; RM—Ruth Meier; BM—Betsy MacMillan; JM—Jeffrey Miller; RP—Ray Payson; JP—John M. Peterson; FR—Fred Raymon; SS—Steve Sanford; MV—Maurice Villeneuve; PW—Phil Warren.

Abbreviations: CV—Champlain Valley; Chazy Ldg—Chazy Landing; E'town—Elizabeth-town; Ham—southern Hamilton Co.; LC—Lake Champlain; Platts—Plattsburgh; Tupper—Tupper Lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max 10 migrants Port Douglas Oct. 15 (DN). Horned Grebe: max 25 LC Nov. 6 (PW). Pied-billed Grebe: 2 late birds Chazy Ldg Nov. 6 (PW). Green Heron: 1 Indian Lake (RMC). Black-crowned Night Heron: 2 imm Kings Bay Oct. 1 (PW,RP). American Bittern: 1 Raquette River at Tupper Sept. 4 and 11 (RM). Canada Goose: hundreds Whallon's Bay thru Oct.; 12-34 Tupper thru Nov. 10 (CD,RM). Snow Goose: 100 Lake Placid Oct. 10 (GM); 200 Ticonderoga Oct. 15 (FR); 500 Platts Nov. 7 (PW). Pintail: 12 Long Lake Nov. 13 (JM). Blue-winged Teal: 1 Tupper Oct. 25 (CD), unusual inland; 1 Chazy Ldg Nov. 5 (PW). Both were late. American Wigeon: 4 Ham Nov. 4 (B&DS), extremely late. Ring-necked Duck: 45 Corey's Oct. 25 (MK). Canvasback: 18 Long Lake Nov. 11 (JM). Greater Scaup: arrived Sept. 27 with max 3500 Platts Oct. 29 (PW,SS). Lesser Scaup: 18 Heart Bay Oct. 2 (DC). Oldsquaw: 1 Platts Nov. 19 (PW,RP). White-winged Scoter: 3 Platts Sept. 23 (RP); 1 Heart Bay Sept. 24 (DC). Surf Scoter: 1 female Ausable Point Oct. 19 (Hal Klein and his ornithology class); this is rarest scoter on LC. Black Scoter: 14 Heart Bay Sept. 24 (DC); 10 Platts Oct. 16 (PW,RP). Hooded Merganser: 8 Tupper Nov. 30 (CD).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: many; DC had 3 local birds that harassed migrant raptors Sept. 4 at Big Crow Mtn in Keene. Sharp-shinned Hawk: about 15. Cooper's Hawk: 1 Ham Sept. 4 (B&DS); 1 Tupper Sept. 20 (CD). Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 CV Sept. (HiPkAud); 1 Tupper Sept. 20 (CD); 1 imm Ausable Point Oct. 2 (PW,RP). Rough-legged Hawk: arrived Oct. 20 Peasleeville (Holland Fitts); 1 Tupper Nov. 28 (CD) is unusual because they prefer CV. Marsh Hawk: several CV; 1 Paul Smiths Nov. 8. Ring-necked Pheasant: many releases prior to hunting season put birds in areas such as Tupper and Franklin Falls where they might as well all be shot for holiday eating because they probably will not survive winter. They were nice and plump. Turkey: 40 in one flock Ticonderoga Oct. 9 (Jerry Charbonneau); 1 strayed to Low's Dam near Sabattis Oct. 8 (*fide* BF). Gray Partridge: 11 Point-au-Rouche Oct. 29 (PW,SS,RP); 12 Chazy Ldg Nov. 5 (PW). Virginia Rail: 1 Ausable Point Sept. 17 (RP,SS,PW). American Coot: 4 Chazy Ldg Oct. 29 (SS,PW), rare. Black-bellied Plover: 1 late bird Chazy Ldg Nov. 6 was with a single gray-backed Am. Golden Plover that lacked the gold dorsal coloration common to this species. The dark rump and lack of black axillars proved it to be a golden, however (PW). One of each species of yellowlegs was seen and heard together on late date of Nov. 6 Chazy (PW). Pectoral Sandpiper: at least 5 from LC. White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 Platts Sept. 4 and 2 on Sept. 10 (PW,RP). All were flushed to see rumps. Dunlin: 27 Chazy Ldg (RP,PW). **HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** This seems to be a regional first: 2 Chazy Ldg Oct. 22-Nov. 6 (RP,PW). Upturned bill and distinctive black and white tail seen at leisure. **NORTHERN PHALAROPE:** 2 Indian Lake Sept. 20. Back pattern seen from boat as birds swam 60 feet away. In Sept. 1970 a pair remained 2 or 3 days. Both (GD). Dave Young saw an unidentified jaeger at Westport Sept. 4.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Screech Owl: 1 Essex was banded (Phoebe MacDougal, JP); several LC (PW). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 1 Tupper Sept. 12 and Oct. 5 (CD).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 Indian Lake Sept. 3 (RMc). Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 Ham Sept. 25 (B&DS). Gray Jay: 3 Tupper Nov. 22 (MV). There are quite a few on posted land near Mt. Matumbla. Common Raven: Clinton Co. bird still at same location north of Ausable Forks (Charlie Mitchell). Boreal Chickadee: 1 at

Moriah Oct. 11 (Bea Guyett). **SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN**: 1 Ausable Point Sept. 17 (PW,SS), seems to be a first fall record for the region. Eastern Bluebird: at least 28 from Tupper to LC. Water Pipit: 12 Tupper Sept. 30 (CD); 35 Lake Placid Oct. 15 (DN). Northern Shrike: 1 Paul Smiths early Nov.; 1 Tupper early Nov. (BF); 1 Lake Placid Nov. 2 (Mike DiNunzio).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: bright yellow under tail coverts and faint streaks on breast noted on bird at Platts Nov. 15 (PW); observer knows the species as a wintering bird on coast of North Carolina; this is a first for Clinton Co. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1-2 Tupper Sept. 12 thru Nov. 12 (CD). Pine Warbler: 2 Ham Sept. 4 (B&DS); 1 Tupper Sept. 13 (CD). Palm Warbler: 1 Tupper Sept. 13 (CD). **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**: 1 imm carefully examined in hand and banded Aug. 27 Indian Lake (RMc) seems to be a first record for Hamilton Co. GC found 1 at E'town Sept. 24 for a first Essex Co. record. Wilson's Warbler: 1 adult male photographed Platts Sept. 8 (RP); 1 Tupper Sept. 12 (CD); 2 E'town Sept. 23 (GC).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Cardinal: several CV as well as 1 Saranac Lake Nov. 3 (MK); 1 Tupper Nov. 29 (MV). House Finch: 5 Platts Oct. 22 through period (PW). Pine Grosbeak: widely reported with max 15 Saranac Lake Sept. 15 (RM). Good numbers of all the usual winter finches reported. Vesper Sparrow: 1 E'town Sept. 23 (GC); 1 Lake Placid Oct. 15 (DN) for a grand total of two in the four county area. Fox Sparrow: 2 Tupper Oct. 13 (CD); 1 Ausable Point Oct. 16 (SS,PW); 1 E'town Oct. 21 (mob).

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REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD P. GUTHRIE

While the temperatures for the fall of 1977 were nearly normal, precipitation at 15.4 in. (39.1 cm.) for the period was almost double the normal 8.6 in. (21.8 cm.). Frequent foul weather through the latter half of September and the early part of October may have been the cause of a number of delayed departures. Record or near-record late dates for several species are reported by some observers.

Waterfowl reports are rather low, notably Common Loon. Hopefully, this may be merely the result of fewer visits to larger water bodies by birders, rather than population problems.

On the positive side, raptors continue to show encouraging signs of improvement, especially as reflected in Peter Kerlinger's reports from his many hours atop the Helderbergs at Camp Pinnacle.

Highlights of the 1977 species reported this season are: Brant, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull, Barn Owl, Gray Jay, Common Raven, Bohemian Waxwing.

Abbreviations used here are: NBalt—New Baltimore; ColCo—Columbia County; C'ton—Castleton; VF—Vischer Ferry; SL—Saratoga Lake; HR—Hudson River; PalRav—Palmer's Ravine; TomRes—Tomhannock Reservoir.

Contributors include: K. Able; V. Bingman; J. Bush; A. & T. Brown; P. Connor; J. Cook; J. Davis; K. Dunham; P. Feinberg; B. & H. Gardina; A. & M. Giddings; W. Gorman; E. Grace; M. Gruett; R. Guthrie; P. Kerlinger; E. Mansell; T. Palmer; W. B. Sabin; L. Thomas; M. & W. Ulner; R. Yunick.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: only two reports, 20 TomRes Oct. 15 and 1 SL Nov. 22. Red-throated Loon: 2 TomRes Oct. 15, a welcome report. Red-necked Grebe: 1 SL Nov. 29, also welcome. Horned Grebe: 4 TomRes Oct. 15, only report. Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Stockport Sta. Oct. 2 and Oct. 8; also 1 NBalt Oct. 1. Great Blue Heron: surprisingly few reports; thru Oct. 23 (JC). Black-crowned Night Heron: 2 Vosburgh's Marsh Sept. 24 (RPG). Canada Goose: max 2,000 Oct. 15 TomRes and 1,200 same day, Old Chatham; also 800+ Nov. 8 ColCo and numerous other flocks of 50 to 150. BRANT: 1 Mohawk River at Crescent Nov. (KA). Snow Goose: a blizzard of some 3,000 TomRes Oct. 15 (incl. 4 blue morphs); a flurry of up to 200 Ohm's Pond thru Oct. with 90 remaining at least until Nov. 24. Gadwall: 3 Vosburg Sept. 24. Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal: very few reports. Greater Scaup: 5 HR Nov. 20 and 4 SL Nov. 22 (RPG). Lesser Scaup: 2 SL Nov. 22 (RPG); and 5 Mariaville Lake Nov. 25 (TP). Common Goldeneye: 40 Lake George Nov. 22. Oldsquaw: 2 L. Taghkanic Oct. 23 (early) (ATB); and 3 SL Nov. 29 (VB). White-winged Scoter: 2 HR-NBalt. Oct. 10 (earlyish); 20 TomRes Oct. 15; and 40 SL Nov. 22. Black Scoter: 4 TomRes Oct. 15; 5 SL Nov. 22 (RPG) and 2 SL Nov. 29 (VB). Ruddy Duck: 2 TomRes Oct. 15; 10 L. Taghkanic Oct. 23 (ATB); 4 SL Nov. 29 (VB,PK) higher than usual.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: PK reports a total of 34 from the Helderberg Hawk Watch with max of 12 Oct. 23 and 10 Nov. 12. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 14 scattered reports are overshadowed by PK's 319 total with a max of 70 on Sept. 29. Cooper's Hawk: 9 scattered reports and 7 from PK's hawk watch . . . hmmmm! Red-tailed Hawk: 401 from PK's efforts, is impressive especially with almost half the total (191) passing over on Oct. 23. Red-shouldered Hawk: Sept. 7 Old Chatham; PK reports a total of 50 with a max of 28 on Oct. 23. Broad-winged Hawk: PK's total 800 watch with max of 292 on Sept. 14 and 145 on Sept. 18. Rough-legged Hawks filtered in early this fall with JC spotting a very early one Oct. 4 at C'ton; JB, 1 Oct. 17 at Catskill; and WBS 1 from the Pinnacle Oct. 23; PK only 1 Oct. 27. **GOLDEN EAGLE:** 1 (ad) Palenville Nov. 14 (W. Robinson) and a probable Golden Oct. 23 Pinnacle (PK). Osprey: at least 14 reported. **PEREGRINE FALCON:** 1 Guilderland Center, Albany County, Oct. 10 (KA). Merlin: 4 reports of this interesting rarity: 1 Sept. 22 VF (KA, VB); 2 Coxsackie Flats Sept. 24 (1 feasting on what resembled a Common Yellowthroat) (RPG) and 1 flying low along the HR at Albany Oct. 3 (PC). Am. Kestrel: aside from 86 from the Pinnacle, reports seem down. Ruffed Grouse: reports increasing. Ring-necked Pheasant: maintaining a few areas but may be decreasing overall. Turkey: a few in ColCo and a few appeared in several spots in Lake Luzerne (LT). Common Gallinule: only report 1 Rensselaer Oct. 15 (PC). Killdeer: max 110+ in one field vic. TomRes Oct. 15. Black-bellied Plover: Oct. 24 to 26 Hudson (ATB). Common Snipe: max 10 Staats Isl. Oct. 30 (PC). Solitary Sandpiper: 1 probable very late indiv. (heard only) Nov. 6, Schodack Cent. (PC). Dunlin: 2 vic. TomRes Oct. 15 (WG et al.). **GLAUCOUS GULL:** 1 Colonie Nov. 22 (RPG). **ICELAND GULL:** 2 Cohoes Nov. 22 (KA); 1 SL Nov. 22 (RPG). Herring Gull and Ring-billed Gull: concentrations at Pattersonville, Colonie, TomRes, SL, and HR at Albany. Bonaparte's Gull: only 1 report HR NBalt. Oct. 7. Common Tern: HR at NBalt. Sept. 24-26.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: thru to Sept. 22. **BARN OWL:** 3 fledged from window ledge nest site in downtown Coxsackie mid-Sept. (RPG); also 1 C'ton vic. Oct. 6 (JC). Barred Owl: 1 Spencertown, Sept. 5 (EM); 1 Thompson Lake Oct. 2. Common Nighthawk: 2 late to Oct. 5 at Schenectady (WG). Chimney Swift: Oct. 4 (late) C'ton (JC). Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Sept. 3, 4 Palmer's Rav. (TP) and 1 C'ton vic. Oct. 21 (JC).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 Sept. 24 NBalt. E. Wood Pewee: thru Sept. 28 (late) C'ton (JC). Tree Swallow: late leaving with 50 at TomRes Oct. 15 (WG) and 4 C'ton Oct. 19 (JC). Bank Swallow: generally gone by Sept. 24. Rough-winged Swallow: a record late bird seen sitting on a wire Oct. 3 C'ton (JC). Barn Swallow: thru Sept. 30 (JC). Cliff Swallow: no reports. Purple Martin: extremely late—several were

seen on a wire in Kinderhook (near the site of a large breeding colony) on Oct. 21 (JC). COMMON RAVEN: 1 seen and heard while being harassed by crows TomRes Oct. 15 (WG, MG). Black-capped Chickadee: RPY reports an early movement of major proportions by the end of Nov. in the Jenny Lake region. Red-breasted Nuthatch: a mild influx Sept.-Oct. House Wren: two late sightings Oct. 1 and Oct. 7 at Ghent were probably the same individual (BHG). Winter Wren: only two reports Sept. 22 VF (KA), and Oct. 2 PalRav (TP). Carolina Wren: no reports. Long-billed Marsh Wren: only report is a late Oct. 8 individual at Stockport Station (KD,ATV, *et al.*). Gray-cheeked Thrush: only report Sept. 25 (WG). E. Bluebird: reports from Old Chatham, Catskill and PalRav. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 NBalt. Sept. 10 (RPG). BOHEMIAN WAXWING: reported at Jenny Lake feeder Nov. 17 (*fide* RPY). Northern Shrike: 1 in fruitless pursuit of Downy Woodpecker Nov. 17 Greenville (RPG); 1 in pursuit of Yellow-rumped Warbler Nov. 25 PalRav (TP); four other reports.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Red-eyed Vireo: an Oct. 21 individual—late—C'ton (JC). A Magnolia Warbler on Oct. 11 at C'ton was getting late (JC). Blackburnian Warbler: three behind-time individuals: Sept. 22, Old Chatham, Sept. 24 E. Greenbush, Sept. 24, Vosburgh's. Pine Warbler: only report Sept. 28 C'ton (JC). Ovenbird: a lingerer Sept. 24 Old Chatham (KD,EG).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Northern Oriole: 1 late adult male Nov. 12 and Nov. 29 SL (VB, PK). Rusty Blackbird: a good year; max 145 Staats Isl. Oct. 30 (PC). Scarlet Tanager: an extremely late 3 remaining thru Nov. 14 C'ton were viewed thru a window at very close range (3 ft.) (JC). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 remained thru Oct. 12 (late) C'ton (JC). Indigo Bunting: thru Sept. 21 (late) Ghent (BHG). Purple Finch: moderate influx in late Sept. at JL apparently dispersed after that. House Finch: continued steady increase and expansion. Evening Grosbeak: early Sept. (LT) thru. Pine Siskin: despite reports of "massive coastal movements," reported only lightly here from mid-Oct. thru. Red Crossbill: 1 Pinnacle Oct. 23 (WBS) and 1 JL Nov. 5 (RPY). Tree Sparrow: from an early Oct. 22 indiv. thru (PC). White-crowned Sparrow: max 17 E. Greenbush Oct. 16 (PC). White-throated Sparrow: max 400 Schodack Cent. Oct. 16 (PC). Fox Sparrow: good numbers, mainly mid-Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: Sept. 10 thru Oct. 10, Ghent (BHG). Swamp Sparrow: max 20 E. Greenbush Oct. 16 (PC). Song Sparrow: max 50 Staats Isl. Oct. 16 (PC). Snow Bunting: 8 Pinnacle, Oct. 29 (AL).

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The principal weather feature this fall was rain. September started out dry with some light precipitation, enough to discourage birders, but not enough to break the summer drought until the last week, when over 5 inches fell in less than 4 days, causing considerable flooding. Wet weather then continued thru October and November, especially on week-ends when most birders would have been afield. November saw 20 days with some precipitation, and another period of flooding when over 5 inches fell on November 6 and 7. There was no appreciable snow until Thanksgiving week-end, and then only in the highlands.

The period saw one of the best goose migrations with Snows in unprecedented numbers. Ducks, however, were fewer than usual. Stewart Airport at Newburgh continues to be a mecca for shorebirds, with the rare Buff-breasted, Baird's and Hudsonian Godwit making appearances along with several species that might be expected. Week-end hawk watchers

had a hard time with the weather; but the daily watches fared better, with birds apparently piling up during foul weather, and moving on good days. There were several accounts of flights moving through mist and clouds without benefit of winds. Warblers were low to average, but with the rare Orange-crowned and Connecticut making appearances. Fringillids were excellent, with an indication of a good winter finch year. Two Lark Buntings were reported, and an unprecedented (and unreported) White Ibis made an appearance last July. The record is contained here even if late. In all, not a bad season considering the weather.

Contributors and observers cited: Martin Borko; Al Brayton; Tom Burke; Robert F. Deed; Valerie Freer; Paul Jeheber—White Horse Mt. Hawk Watch, Cornwall; Ken McDermott; Al Merritt; Frank Murphy; John C. Orth; Eleanor Pink; Richard Rogers—Mt. Peter Hawk Watch, Warwick; Benton Seguin; Robert Speiser; Stiles Thomas—Hook Mt. Hawk Watch, Nyack; Marian VanWagner; Hans Weber; Berna Weissman.

Abbreviations: Ashokan—Ashokan Reservoir; CB—Cornwall Bay; KP—Kingston Point; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL—Playland, Rye.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Numbers inc on Ashokan to a max of about 100 Oct. 23. Decreased to only 1 by end of period. 10 Kensico Res Sept. 25, 3 migrants over Hook Mt. Sept. 15. Red-throated Loon: 1 at PL Sept. 30 was early, 1 CB Nov. 24 and Nov. 27 (BS). 1 Ashokan Oct. 28. Horned Grebe: 40 Ashokan Nov. 6; 11 CB Nov. 28. Double-crested Cormorant: 1 CB Sept. 17, inc to 5 by Sept. 27. 5 on Hudson at Kingston Sept. 26 were far upstream. About 100 over Hook Mt. Oct. 6. Last at Piermont Oct. 23. Little Blue Heron: 1 Lake Antrim, Suffern, Sept. 24 (RS). Great Egret: 1 same place and date; another KP Oct. 2. Snowy Egret: 1 KP Sept. 6. Black-crowned Night Heron: 1 same place and date, 1 Vassar Farms Sept. 10-17. **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:** 1 at MC Sept. 10, there again Oct. 20. Glossy Ibis: single at MC on several days in Sept. 1 Piermont Oct. 6. **WHITE IBIS:** 1 imm at Teatown L. Ossining, Jul. 13-16 (mob). Bird was photographed. Ducks were down in numbers. Mute Swans: the flock usually at Croton Pt. was not present this season. Max at CB Oct. 22 was 13. Canada Goose: first migrants 20 over Wawarsing Sept. 21; 1500 over Hook Mt. Oct. 6, at least 1200 over Rondout Valley near Ellenville over 2 hr period Nov. 6. "Thousands from before dawn thru noon over Nyack in mist and low clouds Nov. 6." (RFD). Brant: 150 Nov. 7; 300 and 400 Nov. 8 over Wawarsing. 100 over Newburgh-Beacon Bridge No. 9 and 40 over Dobb's Ferry same date. 1 at Croton Pt Nov. 22-end of period. Pintail: up to 8 thru Sept. 9 at Amenia. 7 Goshen Oct. 2. Am. Wigeon: max 21 Iona 1 Oct. 1. Wood Duck: numbers down thru region. Ring-necked Duck: numbers poor except in Dutch. Canvasback: returned Oct. 22. Max 61 Nov. 23 at CB. Lesser Scaup: first Oct. 16 Tarrytown Res. Max 165 at CB Nov. 28. Common Goldeneye: an early male at PL Oct. 23. Oldsquaw: 15 at CB Nov. 10. Returned to PL where they are rare Oct. 23-26. All 3 species of scoter were at Ashokan Oct. 23 (Bob Terwilliger). Only a few scattered reports of White-winged Scoter elsewhere. Surf Scoter: 1 CB Nov. 10, only report. Black Scoter: more than usual. First 2 fem CB Sept. 22. Max 150 there Nov. 10. Reported 3 other occasions same place (BS). Ruddy Duck: very few. First a male at Goshen Oct. 22 inc to 9 by Oct. 25. Hooded Merganser: arr Oct. 8 at PL. 20 there by Oct. 23. Common Merganser: Rondout Res. Oct. 10 (JCO). Red-breasted Merganser: none.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: The three local hawk watches of extended duration are reported in the table below. Hook Mt. from Aug. 30-Nov. 13 for a total of 349½ hrs. White Horse Mt. from Aug. 23-Nov. 22, hrs. not available. Mt. Peter no details other than totals, from Sept. 1-30 and week-ends in Oct.

	Hook Mt.		White Horse Mt.			Mt. Peter
	Total	Max.	Total	Max		Total
Black Vulture					1	9/23
Goshawk	28	5	10/23	11	3	10/11
Sharp-shinned	7,070	514	10/14	1,751	260	9/30
Cooper's	75	15	10/5	60	12	9/30

	Hook Mt.			White Horse Mt.			Mt. Peter
	Total	Max		Total	Max		Total
Red-tailed	334	77	10/23	1,113	76	10/25	75
Red-shouldered	130	52	10/23	184	51	10/24	33
Broad-winged	6,670	1,614	9/23	9,177	4,953	9/15	4,455
Rough-legged	3	1	10/18,27,31	1	1	11/3	1
Golden Eagle	3 imm	3	10/25	6	6	10/13	0
Bald Eagle	4	2	9/27	5	2	9/23	0
Marsh Hawk	270	28	9/23	69	8	9/23	26
Osprey	330	52	9/27	101	13	9/28	68
Peregrine Falcon	9	5	10/1	5	1	9/11,17 10/3,8,16	3
Merlin	25	4	9/28	9	2	10/10	1
Am. Kestrel	764	92	9/29	106	12	9/29	167

Turkey Vulture: 1 over Tappan Zee and 6 over Suffern Dec. 2 (E. Levine). **BLACK VULTURE:** 1 well observed over White Horse Mt. Sept. 23 (PJ). Goshawk: reports of resident birds continue to increase. Sharp-shinned Hawk: Hans Weber had 253 passing the Trapps near Minnewaska in 3½ hrs Oct. 11. By the end of the period there were the usual few feeding on feeder birds thru the region. Red-tailed Hawk: 84 passed Mt. Aspetong, West Oct. 30. Red-shouldered Hawk: 6 at MC Oct. 23. Broad-winged Hawk: last obs at Wawarsing Oct. 20. Peak there of 823 on Sept. 23. Rough-legged Hawk: first Oct. 15 Galeville Airport; most winter residents on territory by end of period. Golden Eagle: single imms passed Mt. Aspetong on Oct. 29 and 30 (mob). The 6 individuals (2 ad and 4 imm) over White Horse Mt. Oct. 13 appeared at the same time, "kettling" like a bunch of Broad-wings. What a sight! (PJ). Osprey: an unusual concentration of 18 feeding together at MC for several days in Sept. **PEREGRINE FALCON:** more than usual; 1 wearing a Cornell-type antenna spent part of Oct. 9 hunting at MC (TB). This might have been the same bird obs over Hook Mt. Oct. 11. 1 Croton Pt. Nov. 3 was harried by 3,000 Starlings. Another at SA Oct. 2. Merlin: more than usual, at least 5 in addition to those on hawk watches. Bobwhite: only report, 3 at Beekman Sept. 4. Turkey: MB reports a banner year in Sull. 4 at Millerton in Sept. and 15 on Stissing Mt. in Nov. Killdeer: an unusual conc of 27, Blue Chip Farm, Wallkill Oct. 15. Am. Golden Plover: 7 SA Sept. 10, inc to 90 by Sept. 25. Last obs 20 on Oct. 2. 104 at Blue Chip Farm, Wallkill, Oct. 23. Black-bellied Plover: 15 at SA Sept. 25. Upland Sandpiper: at SA from Sept. 2-25. Max 30 Sept. 8. **PURPLE SANDPIPER:** 1 Piermont Pier Nov. 1 (Victor Schwartz). Might be the first record for the region. Unusual so far from the coast. Pectoral Sandpiper: at SA from Sept. 25-Oct. 27. Max 30, Sept. 25. **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** 1 at SA Sept. 11 (ET,mob). Dunlin: at SA from Sept. 25-Oct. 21. Max 9 Sept. 25. **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** 4 at SA Oct. 2 (BS). **all reports at SA, 5 on Sept. 5, obs almost daily thru Sept. 11 when 8 were there (BS). **HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** 7 at SA from Oct. 18-27 (BS,mob). Great Black-backed Gull: max 130 at Dobbs Ferry Oct. 9 (BW). Laughing Gull: 2 still at Dobbs Ferry and 1 at Yonkers thru end of period. Bonaparte's Gull: more reports than usual, but numbers low. First CB Sept. 18. 3 Ashokan Oct. 20. inc to 7 by Oct. 23. 6 at Piermont Nov. 12. Caspian Tern: 4 at CB Sept. 1 (BS).**

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: all areas indicate a considerable build up of what might be a large winter flock. Rose-ringed Parakeet: 3 at MC on Sept. 17. Probably an extension of those in the Bronx-Yonkers area for the past few years. Barred Owl: 1 calling at Kingman Pk, Kingston Sept. 14 was still there Oct. 2 (FM). A pair heard calling near Silvermine Lk. Harriman Park Oct. 2 (RS). Short-eared Owl: 1 over Hook Mt. Oct. 6, another at MC Oct. 21. Common Nighthawk: migration probably disturbed by poor weather. Some of the latest dates ever. Usually gone by first week of Sept. Remained until well into Oct. 20 at PL Sept. 28, last there 11 on Oct. 10. Single birds in Newburgh on Oct. 1 and Oct. 5. Max 250 over Willow, Ulst. Sept. 1 (Ruth Craig). Ruby-throated Hum-

mingbird: numbers down. The good numbers at Cruger's I. last summer continued with a report of 8 there Sept. 5 (Hans Weber, AB). Red-bellied Woodpecker: only reports 1 regular at Salt Point, another Nov. 9 Pleasant Valley, another Oct. 22 Harriman Park. Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 ad Montrose Sept. 11 (J. Kiel). 1 imm Hook Mt. Oct. 4. **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER:** 1 Nov. 15 Vassar Campus (A. Scott Warthen).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only 4 reports, all Dutch. First Sept. 5, last Sept. 17. E. Wood Pewee: Last Oct. 4. Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Oct. 17 Lake Welch. Horned Lark: first Sept. 29, max 70 Nov. 20 Millerton. Swallows: suitable days in early Sept. found hundreds of Tree migrating thru coastal West, along with Barn and Bank. More than 50 Bank were at MC Sept. 3. Purple Martin: 1 Sept. 27 at Red Hook was late. Fish Crow: reported regularly along the Hudson, but not in any numbers. BW reports numbers greatly reduced at Croton Pt. **BOREAL CHICKADEE:** 1 on Slide Mt. Nov. 24 (FM). Red-breasted Nuthatch: only a few reports, but of many birds. 40 in $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. at Bashakill Sept. 3 (BS). 12 Nov. 29 Stissing Mt. (Paul Haight). Winter Wren: first migrant Sept. 24-25 Monticello (Ed McBride). Another at Wawarsing Oct. 5, 4 at Rye Oct. 10. Carolina Wren: in spite of suspected winter kill last Jan. scattered individuals reported here and there thru period esp in Dutch where 8 were reported. Hermit Thrush: numbers avg. max 6 Oct. 16 Bashakill. Swainson's Thrush: reported fairly common in late Sept. in E. West. with more than 10 at Rye, Sept. 28. Very few elsewhere. Kinglets: both species scarce thru period. Water Pipit: 110 at SA Oct. 16, inc to more than 200 by Oct. 20 (BS). Cedar Waxwing: VF reports the largest number banded in any fall season. 53 compared to an avg of 24. Northern Shrike: 1 Devine Corners, Sull Nov. 28-Dec. 2 (Bill Petersen).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: VF banded her first ever on Sept. 22. Solitary Vireo: VF usually avg 9 banded per fall. This year only 1. Philadelphia Vireo: a rare but regular migrant. 2 at Bashakill Sept. 10 (MB) and a very high 7 in Dutch in Sept. Warblers: not unusually eventful. Only 1 real flight reported, Oct. 11 at Chappaqua area. Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 Cornwall Sept. 18 (AM). 1 Pleasant Valley Sept. 17 (MVW). 1 Eldred Sept. 28 (Alice Jones). Black-throated Blue Warbler: 7 males all at the same time and place at Dobbs Ferry Oct. 6 (BW). Yellow-rumped Warbler: "one flock of 26 picking worms off a flooded golf course at Dobbs Ferry Oct. 9." Most unusual behavior. Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 1 Sept. 28 Sharparoon, Dutch. Pine Warbler: 1 Pleasant Valley Sept. 3-5, another Sept. 5 Thompson Pd. (MVS,EP). Ovenbird: VF banded 7 compared with ave of 20. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** 1 Wawarsing Sept. 13 (JCO). 1 Hook Mt. Sept. 30 (BW). Canada Warbler: VW banded 5, lowest of any fall.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Redwinged Blackbird: a flock of more than 5,000 flew over Galeville Airport Oct. 20 (BW). Rusty Blackbird: very few. 5 at Croton Pt. Oct. 2 and 1 at Dobbs Ferry Oct. 23. Fringillids: migrants came thru in good numbers and variety. Most winter finches were reported in good numbers by end of period. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 Nov. 10 P'kpsie was late (MVW). **LARK BUNTING:** 1 imm New City feeder Oct. 9 (Robert Connor, *fide* RFD). 1 ad Piermont Pier Nov. 11 (Tom Wilfred). Indigo Bunting: last at Wawarsing Oct. 1. Last at Dobbs Ferry Nov. 2. **DICKCISSEL:** only report a female at Dobbs Ferry Oct. 9-10 (BW). Evening Grosbeak: first female at Tillson, Sept. 18. First flock over Pleasant Valley Sept. 23. Many reports esp in highlands after Oct. 1, continued in good numbers at feeders thru end of period. Purple Finch: 1 to 4 at most feeders thru Nov. Max 30 Bashakill Oct. 16. Pine Grosbeak: many small flocks reported in the Catskills and farther south, esp in Nov. Common Redpoll: 40 near Coldenham, Nov. 29 (BS). Red Crossbill: 6 feeding on Spruce cones at Ellenville Dec. 18. Rufous-sided Towhee: VF reports a constant decline since 1970 in the Ellenville area. Banded only 1 last fall, and none this season. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1 at MC Oct. 21. Vesper Sparrow: 1 or 2 at Dobbs Ferry most of Oct. Last at Piermont Nov. 15. Tree Sparrow: first Oct. 31 at Wawarsing. Numbers normally inc thru rest of period. White-crowned Sparrow: first Wawarsing Oct. 18. Usual few esp in Dutch thru end of period. Fox Sparrow: numbers up at feeders from Oct. 24.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Wawarsing Sept. 4. 18 individuals reported over 14 days there. Last Oct. 21. Snow Bunting: 1 over Hook Mt. Oct. 21. Reported sev times in Nov. at Ashokan. Max 350 SA Nov. 10.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

ANTHONY J. LAURO

The weather for the fall season can be described by a single statistic—22.04 inches of rain! Storms came from all directions and one wonders how the birds knew where to go. The average temperatures for the period were Sept. 68.2, Oct. 54.9, Nov. 47.3. Average rainfall: Sept. 4.75 in., Oct. 5.03 in., Nov. 12.26 in.

The results of the fall migration can be best characterized as paradoxical. Without exception, all correspondents reported low numbers of passerines, but we have on record the largest concentrated hawk migration ever noted on the barrier beach and we have an extraordinarily long list of rare and unusual species.

The low number of passerines can of course be attributed to the constantly wet weather, with rain falling on at least seven of the thirteen available weekends, but no ready explanation for the high numbers of rarities springs to mind. Migrants evidently passed over the top and around the sides of the local meteorological disturbances. An extremely heavy northeaster on the night of October 14-15 was undoubtedly the main factor in the virtual absence of the annual October sparrow and kinglet inundation of the shore areas on Long Island. Only small numbers of these birds were reported and this after birders had bemoaned the lack of a September vireo and warbler flight! The season was indeed saved by the quality, if not the quantity, of available birds. Maybe everyone worked harder, or perhaps strays occur no matter what the weather is in a given area.

Heartening trends noted were the continued increase of Ospreys with over 100 birds reported, with 29 seen in one day by one observer; a general increase in Cooper's Hawks with 15 birds counted, and at least 35 Peregrine Falcons seen along the barrier beaches.

A low count of 7 Dickcissels leads to speculation that this may confirm the concern that this bird may be in a general decline (see Fretwell, *American Birds*, 31: 923-932).

An interesting banding operation was conducted on Great Gull Island from April 29 through October 11. 2052 birds of 89 species were banded including: 5 Sharp-shinned Hawks; 4 Acadian Flycatchers, all in June; 1 Orange-crowned Warbler (first record for Great Gull); 9 Blackburnian Warblers; 51 Bay-breasted Warblers; 425 Blackpoll Warblers, with 402 from Sept. 3 to Oct. 8 and 123 on Sept. 23, the highest one-day total of Blackpoll Warblers recorded in the state in this century; 2 Kentucky Warblers on Apr. 30 and Sept. 10; 3 Connecticut Warblers; 5 Mourning Warblers; 1 Hooded Warbler.

This editor recommends to birders a local "hot spot" on the barrier beach of Long Island. It is Parking Field No. 2 at Robert Moses State Park, Fire Island. Located at the western end of Fire Island, this area seems to attract and hold migrant passerines, while migrant hawks can be seen to advantage from the northeast corner of the parking field. Passerines favor the surrounding pines and pelagic species can be seen from the beach front. Pelagics can readily be found during inclement weather and can be observed from the shelter of the pavilion building. The following species were seen from the environs of Park-

ing Field No. 2 this fall: Skua, Noddy Tern, Say's Phoebe, Pine Grosbeak, Grasshopper Sparrow, at least 3 Western Kingbirds, numerous hawks and several Parasitic Jaegers, and an Orange-crowned Warbler.

Rarities for the season were Northern Fulmar, Brown Booby, White Ibis, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Golden Eagle, Gyrfalcon, Skua, Noddy Tern, Black Guillemot, Varied Thrush, Mountain Bluebird, Wheatear, Bell's Vireo, Brewer's Blackbird, Boat-tailed Grackle. A salute to the birders of Region 10 for this fine list, in the face of horrible birding weather.

Site initials used: HLSP—Hempstead Lake State Park; JBSP—Jones Beach State Park; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park.

Observers initials: (JA) Jim Ash, (SBD) Stephen B. Dempsey, (TWB) Thomas W. Burke, (THD) Thomas H. Davis, (WB) Wilma Bauman, (DL) Dave Larsen, (AJL) Anthony J. Lauro, (ML) Manny Levine, (ROP) Robert O. Paxton, (GSR) Gilbert S. Raynor, (JR) John Rusica, (LS) Lore Schore, (RWS) Robert W. Smart, (BS) Barbara Spencer, (SS) Sy Schiff, (AW) Al Wollin.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: 1 Nov. 5 Montauk Point (JA), 1 Nov. 3 JBSP (ML). **NORTHERN FULMAR:** the greatest fulmar flight ever reported in the region occurred on Sept. 24 when 59 birds were seen on a pelagic trip out of Montauk to Cox's Ledge and 24 birds were seen that morning from land at Democrat Point, Fire Island (see pelagic reports). On Nov. 10 a decomposed fulmar was found at JBSP on the bay side of the beach by W. Wilkins. The skull was placed in the collection of the American Museum. H. Richards and S. Chevalier saw 2 BROWN BOOBIES fly in off the ocean, swing around and fly back out at Riis Park on Sept. 29. The observers presented good field marks for the two adults. AJL counted 2,500 Double-crested Cormorants migrating along the Jones Beach strip on Oct. 16, the same day that JR noted 600 in the Shinnecock area. There were 18 Cattle Egrets lingering to Oct. 5 at JFK Airport (JA) and a Louisiana Heron also lingered to Nov. 26 at Tobay Pond (J. Hastings, SS, AW, ML). Residual birds of the summer's influx of **WHITE IBIS** into the area were noted Sept. 4 at JBWR (M. & H. Hopkins) and Sept. 11 at Montauk (JA). The Montauk bird flew in from the ocean, circled Montauk Point and departed in a westerly direction. Both birds were immature as were all birds of the summer flight. 17 Whistling Swans were at their usual haunt at Hook Pond, Easthampton through the end of the period (mob). There was a massive (for our area) flight of Snow Geese on Nov. 6, when over 2,000 were noted flying over Metropolitan New York and at least 1,000 flew west over the barrier beach area of Long Island (mob). The most exciting waterfowl find of the season occurred on Nov. 20 when 18 **FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCKS** were found at Hempstead Lake State Park by SBD, R. Dieterich, *et al.* 16 promptly left but the other 2 remained until Nov. 28. SBD also found 35 Surf Scoters at Hempstead Lake on Oct. 16, a most unusual locale for this marine duck. A drake Harlequin Duck was present from Sept. 2 to Oct. 29 at the Jones Inlet. A hunter shot a male Harlequin in early Nov. in the Freeport area and since the Jones Inlet is directly south of Freeport, the dead bird was probably the Jones Inlet bird. There were good numbers of eiders at Montauk throughout the period, about 300 Common and 5 King.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: (see end of report for details of hawk flights). A **GOLDEN EAGLE** was seen flying over JBSP on Oct. 23 by SS, AW and a sub-adult Bald Eagle was reported from Connetquot SP Sept. 23 by G. Bergin. P. Bernarth had 50 Marsh Hawks on Sept. 29 at Riis Park, possibly a new high count for this bird. ML had a dark phase and also a light phase Rough-legged Hawk at JBSP on Nov. 13, and a dark phase **GYRFALCON** at HLSP on Nov. 9. The pair of Peregrine Falcons that summered in midtown Manhattan, were still present in mid-October. DL, GSR had a late Sora at Hook Pond, Easthampton on Nov. 5. There were good counts of Am. Golden Plovers in the area as follows: 60 Sept. 6 Sagaponack (THD); 150 Sept. 9 Sagaponack (JA); 40 Sept. 17 Sagaponack (JA); 25 Sept. 12-29 JFK Airport (S. Chevalier *et al.*); 50 Wading River Oct. 1 (JR); 17 Oct. 5, 15 Nov. 3 (late for

so many) JFK (S. Chevalier). JA had 2 Baird's Sandpipers on Sept. 16 at Mecox Bay and 2 more from Oct. 2 to Oct. 23 at Sagaponack, where he also had 43 Buff-breasted Sandpipers on Sept. 3 and 70 on Sept. 9 and 15 Sept. 17. Other Buff-breasted reports were: 1 Sept. 5 JBWR (R. Arbib); 11 Sept. 12-29 JFK Airport, 2 Oct. 5 JFK (S. Chevalier); 2 Sept. 24 Heckscher SP (M. Cooper). 1 Hudsonian Godwit lingered to Sept. 3 at JBWR (mob) where an American Avocet also tarried to the same date. 3 Wilson's Phalaropes were present at JBWR until Sept. 17 (JA) and 4 more were counted at the Oak Beach Marsh on Sept. 18 (ROP). BS noted a SKUA harassing gulls in the surf off RMSP Fire Island Oct. 1. DL had a second year Iceland Gull on Hook Pond, Easthampton Nov. 25. 4 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported: subadult Nov. 15-20 Riis Park (JA *et al.*); adult Nov. 19 JBSP (J. Yrizarry, J. Wall); 2 subadults Nov. 20 Mecox Bay (JA, C. McKeever). JA noted an adult Black-headed Gull at HLSP on Nov. 21 and on Oct. 29 DL, GSR had a Black-headed Gull at the Jones Inlet and the Fire Island Inlet. A remarkable flight of Black-legged Kittiwakes was commented upon by many correspondents, with the main concentration at Montauk Point with lesser numbers extending west to the Moriches Inlet. (see Pelagic Trips and Offshore Flights below). One of the prime reasons for this concentration was an extremely heavy run of Sand Lance, a small bait fish, which attracted feeding flocks of predatory Laridae to the beach areas. The maximum count of Royal Terns for the period at Shinnecock was 41 Oct. 10 (J. Bloss, S. Birnbach), while the maximum for Caspian Tern was 20 on Oct. 8 from Mecox Bay to Georgica Pond (P. A. Buckley). Of course the Larid of the year was the NODDY TERN that JA picked out of a northeaster at RMSP on Nov. 8. This species has never been reported before in the state (see "Notes and Observations.") DL, GSR had two outstanding alcids at the Shinnecock Inlet on Nov. 25: Razorbill and the very rare BLACK GUILLEMOT.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: GSR, JR had a late Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Upton on Oct. 28. An unexpected rarity on the barrier beach was a Great Horned Owl found on Oct. 24 at RMSP (A. Dignan, H. Darrow). GSR had a Saw-whet Owl under unusual circumstances on Nov. 13; the bird was flying (how many of you have ever *found* a Saw-whet in flight?) over a salt marsh at Shinnecock; he also had another Saw-whet at JBWR on Nov. 19. Although ROP had a very late Com. Nighthawk on Nov. 10 at Gilgo Beach, most correspondents noted a scarcity of the bird this fall. R. Kelly discovered a Red-bellied Woodpecker at RMSP on Oct. 23. Very few reports of Red-headed Woodpecker were received, about 7, all from the south shore.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Anybody who wanted to see a Western Kingbird should have seen one this year. There were at least 18 reported and 3 were together at RMSP to the end of the period. R. Hines, A. Dignan, C. Ward found a SAY'S PHOEBE at RMSP on Oct. 23, Dignan got photos of the bird. DL noted 2 late Purple Martins at Montauk Oct. 15, and Montauk also was the locale for an extremely late Barn Swallow on Nov. 26 (mob). A Short-billed Marsh Wren was seen at Riis Park on Oct. 7 by J. Yrizarry. Lawrence Nature Sanctuary provided a VARIED THRUSH on Nov. 3-4 (L. & L. Goldman, JA). Eastern Bluebirds were found by: 1 (AW, SS) JBSP Oct. 23; 1 Sept. 5 Manorville (GSR); 1 Nov. 14 Brookhaven (Karen Rowley). The first record of a MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD for Long Island was cinched by Mike Beyer when his photos confirmed the record Nov. 15 at JBSP. The bird was sitting atop goldenrod at West End. Photos also were taken of a WHEATEAR in the backyard of Bertel Bruun at Westhampton Oct. 16-23. An immature Northern Shrike was present from Nov. 26 to the end of the period at Montauk (JA). 6 Loggerhead Shrikes were reported: 1 each at: Sept. 10 Sagaponack (JA *et al.*); Sept. 1 Pilgrim State Hosp (SBD); Oct. 22 Riis Park (B. & W. Baumann); Oct. 22 Bridgehampton (JA); Oct. 29-Nov. 5 Sagaponack (JA); Nov. 26 Montauk (mob).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: H. Darrow, A. Dignan, AJL had a White-eyed Vireo at RMSP Nov. 20—a new late date. GSR reported a Yellow-throated Vireo at Manorville Sept. 1 to Sept. 12, "singing almost daily"—possible breeder? Al Lindberg gave excellent field notes for

a **BELL'S VIREO** he found singing on Sept. 12 at the Wellwyn Estate, Glen Cove. BS had an unusual fall warbler, when she turned up a male Prothonotary Warbler at Garvies Point Preserve, Glen Cove. Another unexpected fall migrant was a Worm-eating Warbler banded by GSR on the late date of Oct. 22 at Manorville. SS & AW spotted a late Tennessee Warbler on Nov. 15 in Rockville Center. DL had an early Orange-crowned Warbler on Sept. 27 at Montauk. Our roll call of late date warblers continues with a Blackburnian Warbler photographed by SS, AW on Nov. 13 at JBS. The bird was feeding on the ground. When you migrate with the sparrows you eat with the sparrows. Our last late date parulid was a Magnolia Warbler found on Nov. 25 at RMSP. A total of 7 Connecticut Warblers was reported, mostly from the south shore of the island, no Mourning Warblers, however, with the exception of the 5 at Great Gull (see intro).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: RMSP was, as stated above, the hot spot this fall. GSR, DL, R. Adamo spotted one of the best birds of the season when they had a female BREWER'S BLACKBIRD east of the water tower on Oct. 8. Two female BOAT-TAILED GRACKLES were discovered in Queens: 1 Oct. 10 Riis Park (WB, LS *et al.*); 1 Oct. 22 Queens Botanical Garden (A. & H. Richards). Nina Combes of Elwood was surprised to find a subadult male Summer Tanager at her feeder on Nov. 16. The bird favored bread crumbs and concern mounted over the bird's ability to make a successful flight to the tropics. The bird was captured and arrangements were made to ferry the bird south. Last fall, note was made that Blue Grosbeaks were becoming common at the Montauk dump. This trend is continuing and JA reports at least 7 Blue Grosbeak sightings from the Montauk area Sept. 18 to Oct. 22, and another 2 individuals, 1 from Fire Island on Sept. 29 and another on Sept. 23 from Lawrence. Evening Grosbeaks arrived at Riis Park Sept. 28 (JA) and a maximum of 100 was counted at Riis Oct. 22 (THD *et al.*). 1 Pine Grosbeak was noted at JBWR on Nov. 16 (A. & M. Penzer), and a female lingered from Nov. 11-18 at RMSP (mob). Pine Siskins were first seen at Montauk Point on Oct. 10 by JA who also counted 300 on Oct. 21 at Riis Park, where their numbers swelled to a maximum of 2,000 on Oct. 22 (THD, TWB *et al.*) and then a gradual subsidence, to several dozen per day to the end of the period. Red Crossbills were first seen on Nov. 15 at JBS (LS), with scattered small flocks reported along the south shore thereafter. 5 Lark Sparrows were reported: 1 each from Lawrence Sept. 5 (H. Hirschbein); Montauk Sept. 5 (JA); Riis Park Oct. 8 (M. Sohmer); Westhampton Beach Oct. 23 (A. & H. Richards, B. Bruun); Mecox Oct. 28 (JA). 2 Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from the barrier beach area: 1 Oct. 23 JBS (SS, AW); 1 Nov. 20 RMSP (mob). The only numbers of White-crowned Sparrows reported were 50 at Montauk Oct. 23 (JA). The earliest date ever reported for a Lapland Longspur was that of Sept. 29 at Gilgo Beach (ROP). A maximum of 700 Snow Buntings was reported by S. Chevalier at JFK on Nov. 3.

PELAGIC TRIPS AND OFFSHORE FLIGHTS

Cox's Ledge Sept. 5 (JA, THS, BS): 108 Greater Shearwaters, 25 Cory's Shearwaters, 1 Manx Shearwater, 1 Wilson's Storm-Petrel, 8 Northern Phalaropes, 5 Pomarine Jaegers, 2 Parasitic Jaegers, 2 unidentified jaegers.

Cox's Ledge Sept. 24 (THD, BS, SBD, D. Puleston, A. Cooley *et al.*): 59 NORTHERN FULMARS, 69 Greater Shearwaters, 12 Cory's Shearwaters, 3 Manx Shearwaters, 2 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 9 Gannets, 1 SKUA, 13 Pomarine Jaegers, 2 Parasitic Jaegers and 2 unidentified jaegers, 2 Black-legged Kittiwakes.

Democrat Point, Fire Island, Sept. 24, 0730-1130 (AJL): 24 NORTHERN FULMARS (1 dark phase bird), 15 Cory's Shearwaters, 1 Manx Shearwater, 20 unidentified shearwaters, 20 Gannets, 1000 Laughing Gulls.

Cox's Ledge Oct. 8 (THD, BS): 2 Northern Fulmars, 11 Greater Shearwaters, 41 Cory's Shearwaters, 11 Pomarine Jaegers, 1 Parasitic Jaeger, 3 Black-legged Kittiwakes.

Eastern Long Island Offshore Flight, Oct. 9 (THD, P. Buckley): Montauk Point, 0700-1030: 50 Cory's Shearwaters, 1 Wilson's Storm-Petrel, 10 Gannets, 3 Pomarine Jaegers,

3 Parasitic Jaegers, 1 Black Tern (very late).

Mecox, 1400-1500: 200 Cory's Shearwaters, 1 Manx Shearwater, 25 Gannets, 2 unidentified jaegers, 1 Black-legged Kittiwake.

Shinnecock Inlet, 1530-1600: 25 Cory's Shearwaters, 5 Gannets, 3 Parasitic Jaegers.

Montauk Point, Nov. 26, 0630-1630 (THD, JA, RWS, D. Crumb, B. Phinney, A. Clark *et al.*): 1 Manx Shearwater (record late date), 1 unidentified shearwater, over 300 Gannets, 1 Parasitic Jaeger (very late). 7,500 Black-legged Kittiwakes "moving west to east *all* day, 'rivers' of birds observed in pm)," 1 Razorbill, 2 Dovekies.

COASTAL HAWK FLIGHTS

Robert Moses State Park, Sept. 28, 1130-1700 (D. Powers, *et al.*): 73 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 6 Marsh Hawks, 4 Ospreys, 3 Peregrine Falcons, 117 Merlins (record high count), 478 Am. Kestrels.

Riis Park, Sept. 28, 0730-1330 (JA): 550 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 13 Marsh Hawks, 29 Ospreys, 45 Merlins, 375 Am. Kestrels.

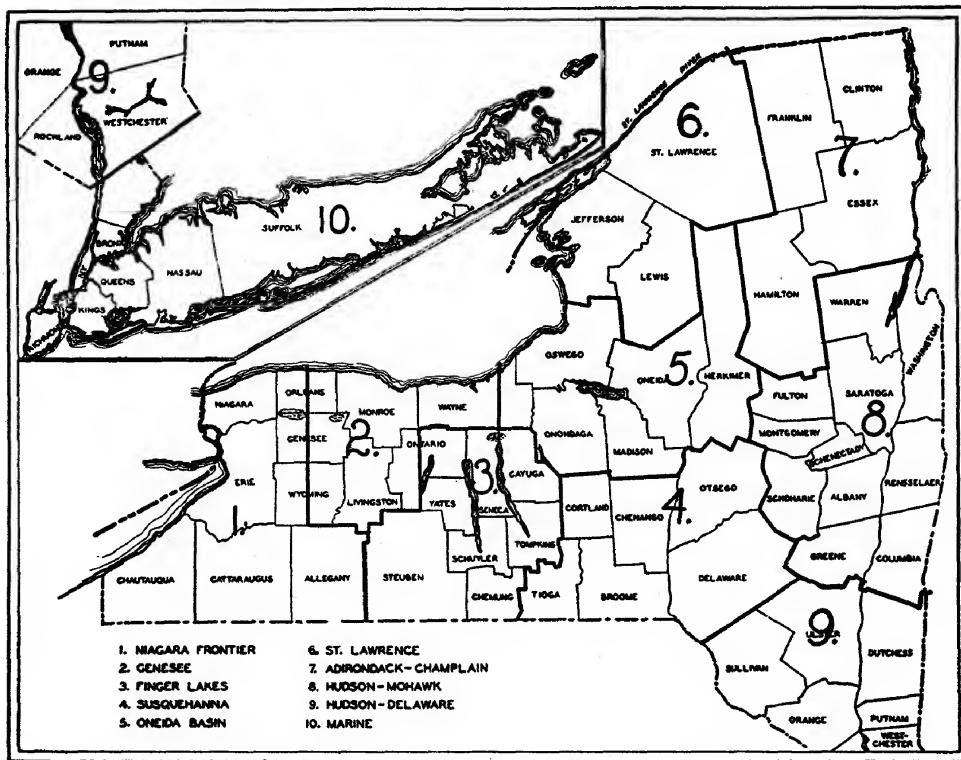
Jones Beach-Fire Island, Sept. 29, 0700-1800 (H. Darrow, C. Ward, M. Levine, AW, JA, THD): 4 Goshawks, 2,000 plus Sharp-shinned Hawks, (record high), 1 Cooper's Hawk, 35 Marsh Hawks, 6 Ospreys, 2 Peregrine Falcons, 80 Merlins, 2500 Am. Kestrels (record high).

Robert Moses State Park: Oct. 3, 0830-1500 (C. Ward): 500 Sharp-shinned Hawks: 6 Marsh Hawks; 6 Ospreys, 2 Peregrine Falcons, 50 Merlins, 2,000 Am. Kestrels.

Robert Moses State Park, Oct. 4, 0800-1500 (C. Ward): 3 Goshawks, 100 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 8 Marsh Hawks, 6 Ospreys, 4 Peregrine Falcons, 80 Merlins, 1,500 Am. Kestrels.

9 DeSoto Rd., Amityville, New York 11701

REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV Nos. 1 and 2

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February
Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May
Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August
Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November
Deadline is December 7

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